

THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR COMICS!™



FORELOCK the WARLOCK

HAUNTED HORROR™

#1

\$3.99



FORELOCK THE WARLOCK



Art by
Angelo Torres

HEY, KIDS,
COMICS!

THE ONES SHRINKS, YOUR
TEACH, AND YOUR MA WARNED
YOU ABOUT!

PAY THOSE MEDDLESOME
DO-GOODERS NO ATTENTION.
THIS IS THE GOOD STUFF YOU'RE
GONNA LOVE TO HOLD IN YOUR
TENDER LITTLE MEAT HOOKS!

TRUST KINDLY OL'
FORELOCK THE WARLOCK...

...WOULD I DO
ANYTHING TO HURT
YOU?!



Look for the second
spine-tingling issue of
Haunted Horrors
in two months!

If you collect horror comics and
other Golden Age comics, we're
always looking for scans for use
in our books and comics.
Please contact Craig Yoe
through Facebook.

Editors: Steve Banes, Clizia Gussoni, and Craig Yoe.

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On the cover, *Chamber of Chills Magazine* #19, September 1953. Artists: Warren Kremer and Lee Elias.

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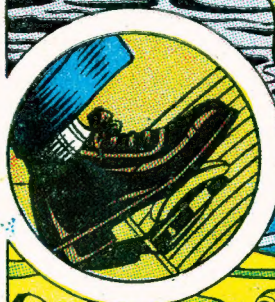
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IF HENRY MASON
THOUGHT THAT THE
PAYMISTRESS WAS
BEAUTIFUL, HE
HADN'T MET....

The WAGE- EARNERS

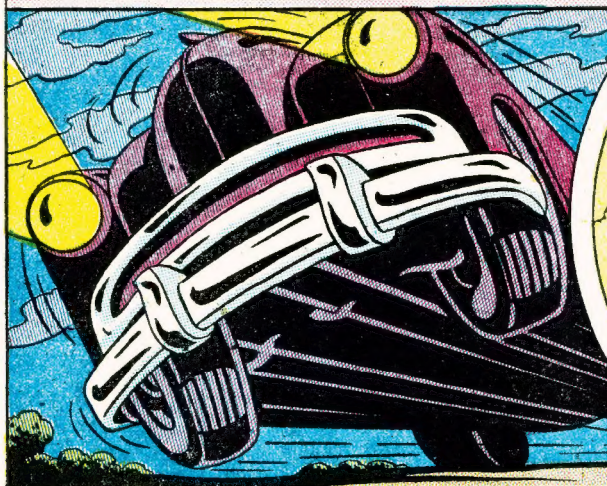


THIS PLACE GIVES
ME THE CREEPS!



THERE'S AN EERINESS
HANGING IN THE AIR THAT
I DON'T LIKE! SOMETHINGS
WRONG! I CAN FEEL IT!

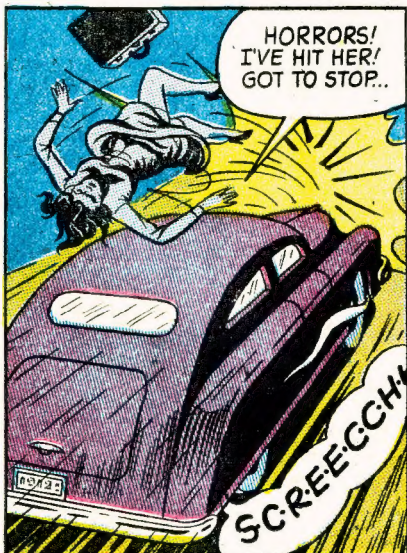
"...GOT TO GET UP ENOUGH SPEED AND GET OUT OF THIS SWAMP! IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN CRAZY!"



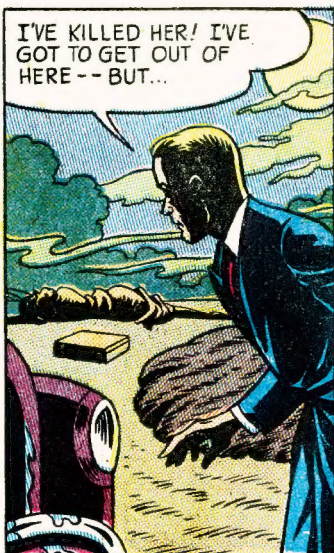
HEAVENS!
THERE'S A GIRL...
SHE'S IN MY WAY!
...I CAN'T STOP!!



HORRORS!
I'VE HIT HER!
GOT TO STOP...



I'VE KILLED HER! I'VE
GOT TO GET OUT OF
HERE -- BUT...



I'VE GOT TO WIPE
THIS -- WHAT IS IT?
IT'S STICKY LIKE
BLOOD, BUT IT'S
GREEN --

HELLO--



YOU GAVE
ME QUITE
A BUMP!

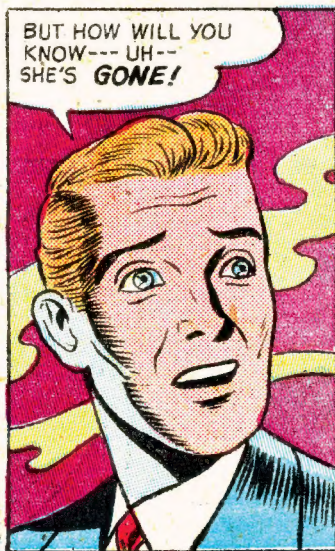
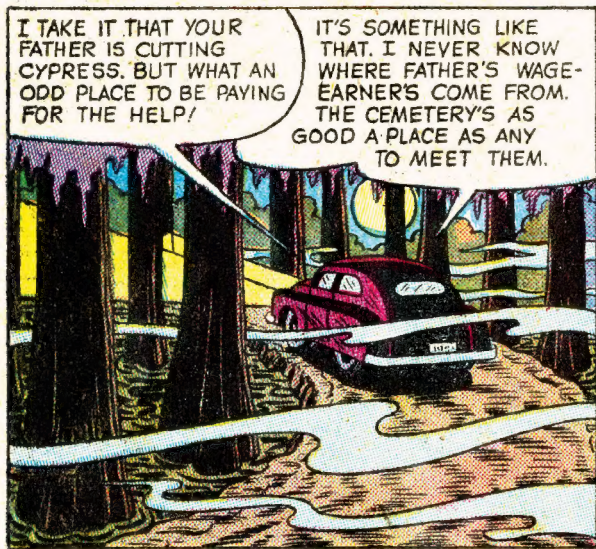
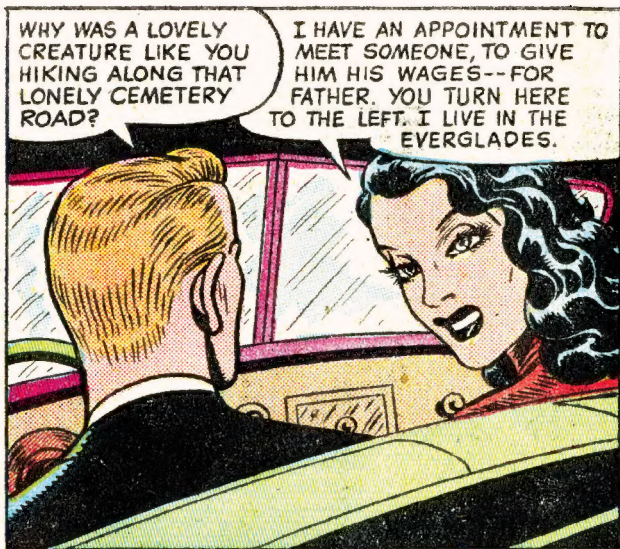
WHAT?--



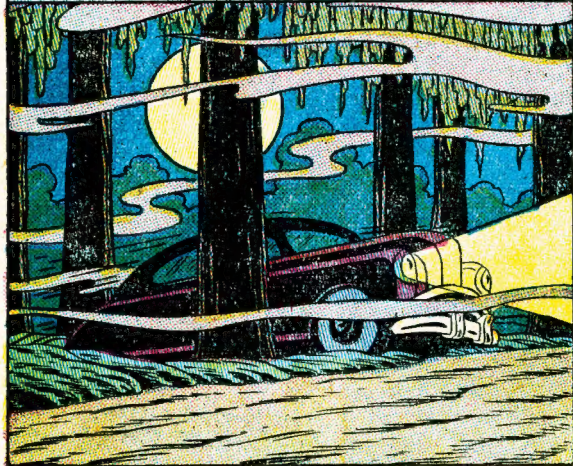
THEN I DIDN'T KILL
YOU? IN FACT, I
DIDN'T EVEN
SOIL YOUR
DRESS!

OH, YOU RUINED MY
CLOTHES, BUT I HAD
OTHERS IN MY SUIT-
CASE! I CHANGED BE-
FORE COMING HERE INTO
THE LIGHT!

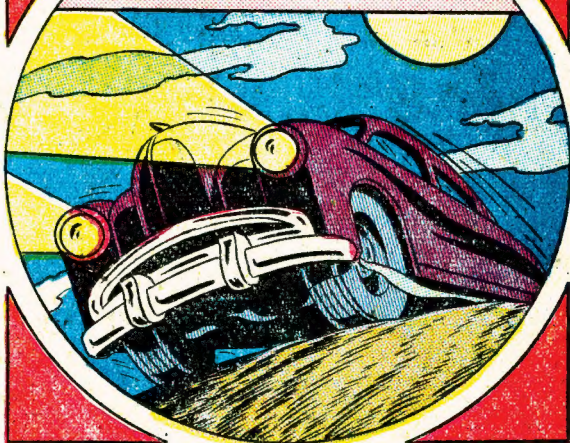




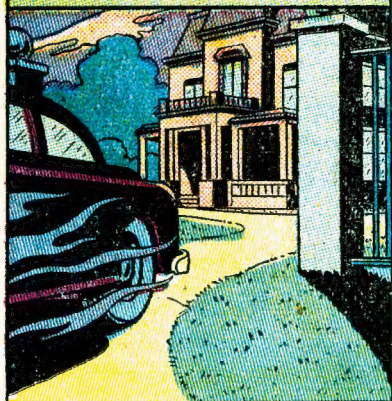
TURNING THE HUGE CAR BACK TO THE HIGHWAY HENRY MASON AGAIN HEADED TOWARD HIS DESTINATION. EVILNESS WAS ALL AROUND HIM.



AN EVILNESS WAS HIS COMPANION AS HE DROVE TOWARD AN UNSUSPECTING BUT WORRIED FIANCEE!



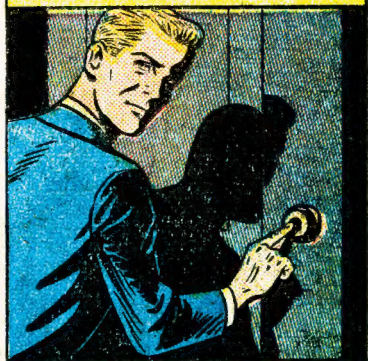
BUT LITTLE DID HENRY MASON SUSPECT THAT EVILNESS WAS DESTINED TO BE HIS UNDOING, EVEN THOUGH IT SAT BESIDE HIM AND WAS IN HIS HEART DURING THE LONG RIDE.



HERE AT LAST, NOW FOR THE DIRTY WORK!



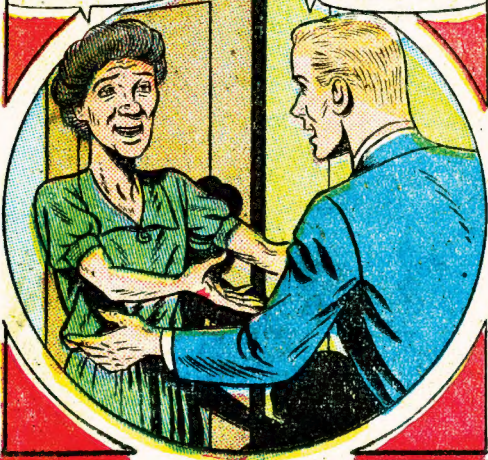
BUT EVEN AS HENRY MASON RANG THE DOORBELL TO CALL ON HIS TRUSTING DATE, HE SENSED A SINISTER FEELING THAT OVERPOWERED HIM...



CASTING HIS FEARS TO ONE SIDE... HE ENTERED THE HOUSE!

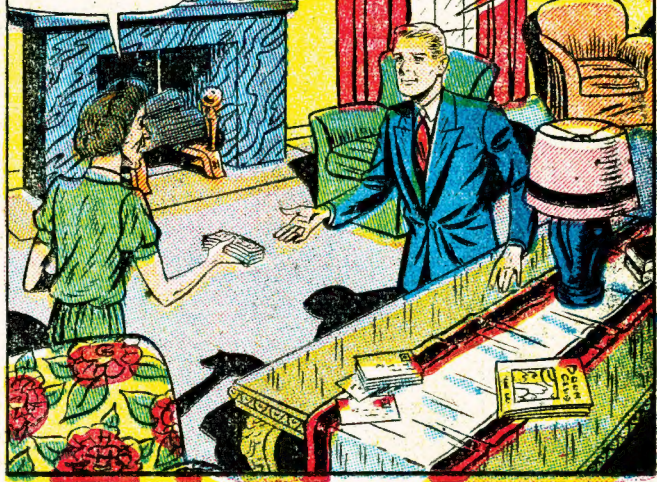
OH, HENRY, I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME!

I WAS DELAYED, DARLING. IS EVERYTHING READY?



I'VE DRAWN ALL MY MONEY FROM THE BANK, DEAREST. HERE IT IS!

GOOD! AND THE CARDS?



YES, I HAVE THEM ALL HERE! LISTEN TO THIS: "DEAR COUSIN BLANCHE: HENRY AND I ARE SO HAPPY! WE ARE SPENDING A FEW DAYS AT NIAGARA FALLS!"



IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS, -- YOUR SUGGESTING THAT WE WRITE ALL OUR CARDS BEFORE LEAVING, DEAR! NOW WE CAN SPEND EVERY MINUTE OF OUR TIME TOGETHER!

THEN LET'S GO, SWEETHEART. IF YOU WANT YOUR

OLD FAMILY PASTOR TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY, WE'LL HAVE TO DRIVE ALL NIGHT TO REACH HIS PRESENT PARISH.



I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!



IT'S ODD, HENRY, THAT HAVING LIVED AROUND HERE ALL YOUR LIFE, YOU SHOULD INSIST ON DRIVING BACK TO THESE SWAMPS TODAY!

I REALLY NEVER HAD TIME TO VISIT THEM, MY LOVE, AND THOUGHT I OUGHT TO BEFORE DRIVING NORTH. LET'S GET OUT OF THE CAR!



HERE DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND, YOU CAN FEEL THE **POWER** OF NATURE!

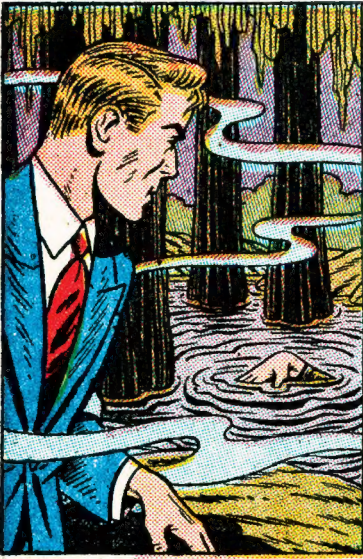
IT'S ACTUALLY SPOOKY! I'D BE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU!



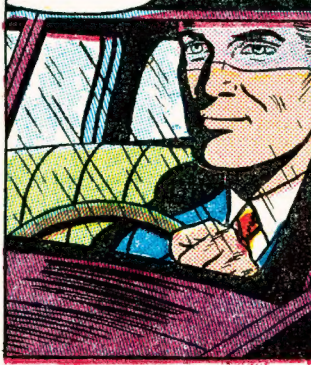
HENRY, YOU'RE PRESSING MY THROAT! HENRY, YOU'RE CHOKING--- **WHAT ARE YOU DOING?---** HENRY!--

YOU GET THE IDEA!



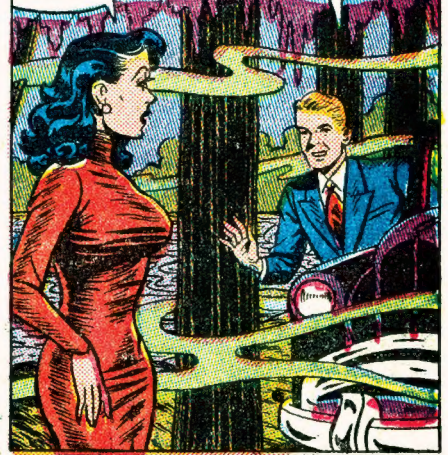


TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH--A STACK OF POST CARDS TO THROW RELATIVES OFF THE TRACK! I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SEE MY LITTLE BEAUTY OF THE SWAMPS!



I KNEW YOU'D COME, HENRY. I WANT YOU TO MEET THE REST!

I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD.



HELLO, EVERYONE! THIS IS HENRY!

HENRY!

LET US FEEL HIM!

HENRY!



YES! FEEL HIM! FEEL HIM! THIS IS HENRY!

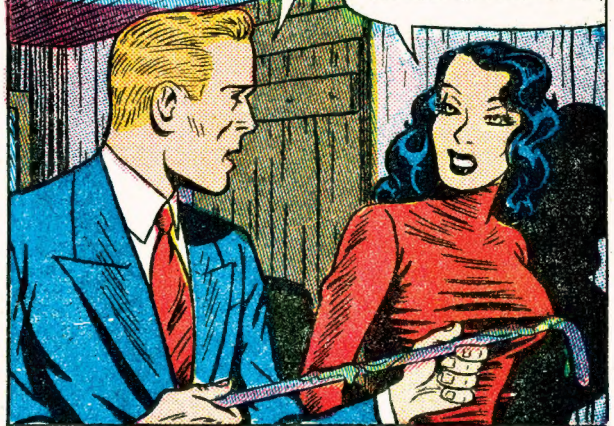
AWK!!

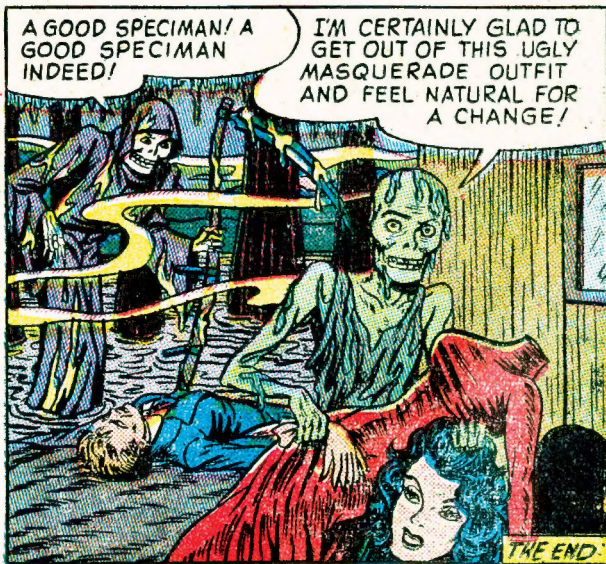
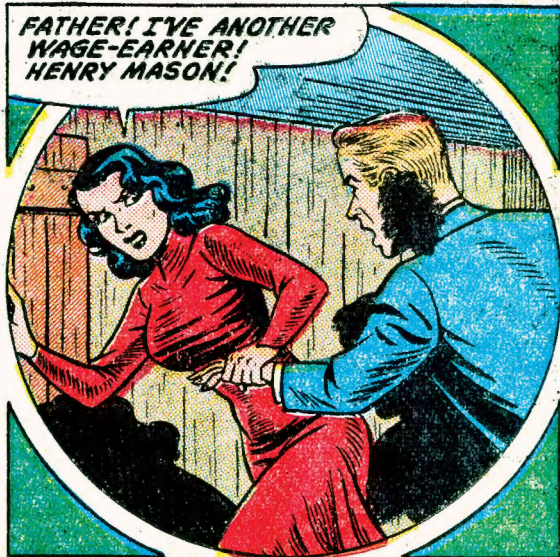
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!



HERE, LET ME HAVE THAT, MY DEAR! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THESE SUB-HUMAN CREATURES!

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! THEY'RE JUST FATHER'S WAGE-EARNERS!!







HERE'S A LITTLE INSURY TO YOUR
EYE MOTIF. IT'S INTRODUCED BY MY GOOD
FIEND DOCTOR DEATH--A LEADING
HEALTH SCARE PROVIDER!



IN THE IMMUTABLE BOOK OF NATURE IS WRIT IN BLOOD THE LIFE-SPAN THAT IS ALLOTTED
TO EACH POOR MORTAL THAT DWELLS ON THIS EARTH! TAMPER WITH A MAN'S LIFE,
AND YOU TAMPER WITH THE ANGRY FORCES OF NATURE! JUSTIN WESTRUM CHOSE TO PER-
MIT HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF MURDER TO APPEASE HIS GREED---AND EXPOSED HIMSELF
TO THE INEXORABLE FOCUS OF NATURE'S VENGEANCE---

THE CONSTANT EYE



CLOSE FRIENDSHIP IS OFTEN LIKE A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER. FOR AS LONG AS IT LASTS, IT IS A GOOD THING TO SEE. BUT AS THE FLOWER WITHERS AND DIES, SO, TOO, DOES THE FRIENDSHIP DIE.



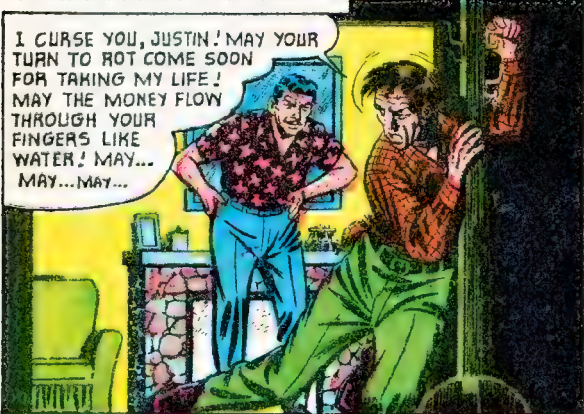
PARTNER! LIFE-LONG FRIEND! MACK, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE TWO OF US! MAY WE NEVER BE PARTED! AS IN LIFE, MAY WE BE ONE TO THE DEATH AND BEYOND!



JUSTIN... AGH... WHY... WHY? POISON! YOU SLIPPED IT IN THE GLASS. ARGHH....

SORRY, MACK. IT HAD TO BE. THE BUSINESS ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US. THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY!

IN THAT SMALL INSTANT BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, MACK WILSON SMOTHERED THE PAIN WHICH TORE AT HIM. HE SUMMONED THE SHREDS OF LIFE THAT REMAINED TO HIM, FIGHTING OFF THE DEATH RATTLE SO THAT HE MIGHT HURL A CURSE AT JUSTIN WESTRUM.



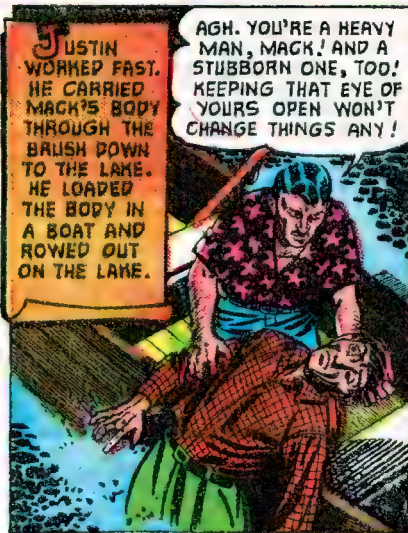
I CURSE YOU, JUSTIN! MAY YOUR TURN TO ROT COME SOON FOR TAKING MY LIFE! MAY THE MONEY FLOW THROUGH YOUR FINGERS LIKE WATER! MAY... MAY... MAY...



I-- I'LL HOLD YOU TO YOUR TOAST, JUSTIN! I'LL BE YOUR COMPANION TO THE DEATH AND BEYOND! WE'LL NEVER PART... I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOU ...WHEREVER YOU GO, JUSTIN! I'LL.... ARGH!



WHY DOESN'T HIS EYE CLOSE? WHY DOES IT FOLLOW ME LIKE THAT? I KNOW HE'S DEAD! HE CAN'T TOUCH ME NOW!



JUSTIN WORKED FAST. HE CARRIED MACK'S BODY THROUGH THE BRUSH DOWN TO THE LAKE. HE LOADED THE BODY IN A BOAT AND ROWED OUT ON THE LAKE.

AGH. YOU'RE A HEAVY MAN, MACK! AND A STUBBORN ONE, TOO! KEEPING THAT EYE OF YOURS OPEN WON'T CHANGE THINGS ANY!



SO LONG, MACK! THIS IS THE END! FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S A WATERY ROAD FOR YOU! GOODBYE, PAL!

AS MACK'S BODY SLIPPED BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE, JUSTIN WESTRUM GOT THE FIRST OF MANY SHOCKS THAT WERE TO BE HIS. FOR IT SEEMED TO JUSTIN THAT THE VIBRAL-POOL FORMED HAD TAKEN INTO ITSELF A CONFIGURATION THAT WAS AWESOME IN ITS DETAIL!



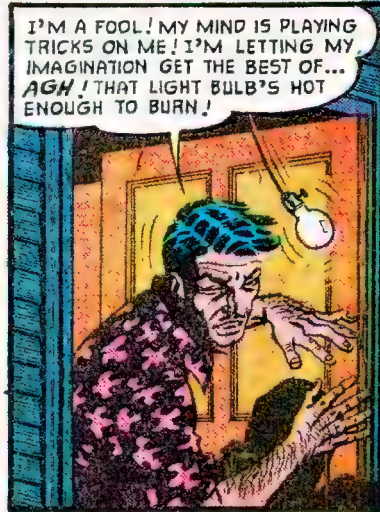
NO, MACK! STOP IT! TAKE YOUR EYE WITH YOU... INTO DEATH! DON'T LEAVE IT BEHIND TO TORTURE ME!



JUST MY NERVES, THAT'S ALL. GOTTA GET BACK TO THE CABIN! THAT'S ALL I NEED. AND I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE NOT EYES! YOU'RE FIREFLIES! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME THIS WAY, MACK! I'M TOO SMART! I'M ALIVE! ALIVE! AND YOU'RE DEAD!



I'M A FOOL! MY MIND IS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME! I'M LETTING MY IMAGINATION GET THE BEST OF... AGH! THAT LIGHT BULB'S HOT ENOUGH TO BURN!



BUT...AS THE LIGHT BULB SWUNG AWAY ON ITS CORD, IT DANGLED LIKE AN...YES...AN EYE!

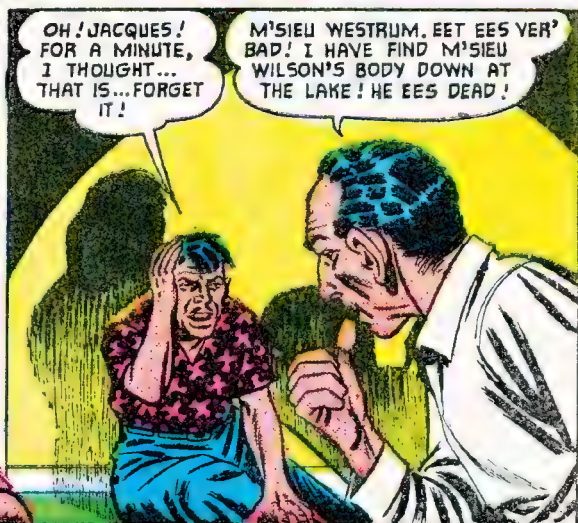
MACK! LET ME BE, WILL YOU? STOP WATCHING ME! TAKE YOUR EYE FROM ME! MACK--WHAT'S DONE IS DONE... STOP IT-- PLEASE...

JUSTIN SMASHED THE LIGHT BULB INTO SHREDS OF GLASS. PLUNGED INTO COMPLETE DARKNESS, HE COVERED IN A CORNER OF THE CABIN FOR THE REST OF THE LONG NIGHT OF TERROR. THEN....



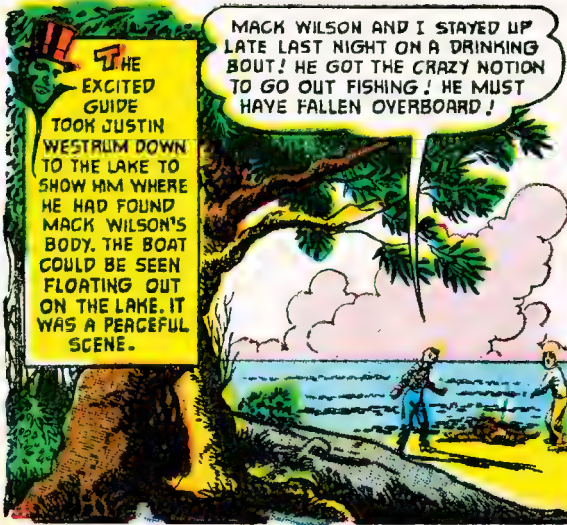
M'SIEU WESTRUM! YOU WAKE UP, IF YOU PLEASE! M'SIEU WESTRUM! EET EES BAD!

AH? GO WAY, MACK! LEMME ALONE...OAAHHH...MACK... STOP!



OH! JACQUES! FOR A MINUTE, I THOUGHT... THAT IS...FORGET IT!

M'SIEU WESTRUM, EET EES VER' BAD! I HAVE FIND M'SIEU WILSON'S BODY DOWN AT THE LAKE! HE EES DEAD!

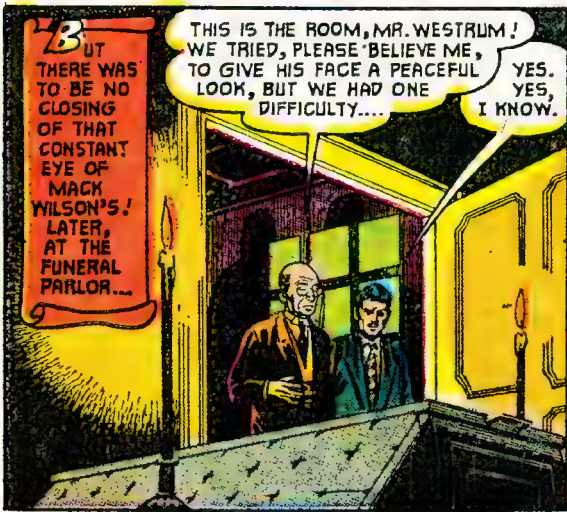


**THE
EXCITED
GUIDE**
TOOK JUSTIN
WESTRUM DOWN
TO THE LAKE TO
SHOW HIM WHERE
HE HAD FOUND
MACK WILSON'S
BODY. THE BOAT
COULD BE SEEN
FLOATING OUT
ON THE LAKE. IT
WAS A PEACEFUL
SCENE.

MACK WILSON AND I STAYED UP
LATE LAST NIGHT ON A DRINKING
BOUT! HE GOT THE CRAZY NOTION
TO GO OUT FISHING! HE MUST
HAVE FALLEN OVERBOARD!



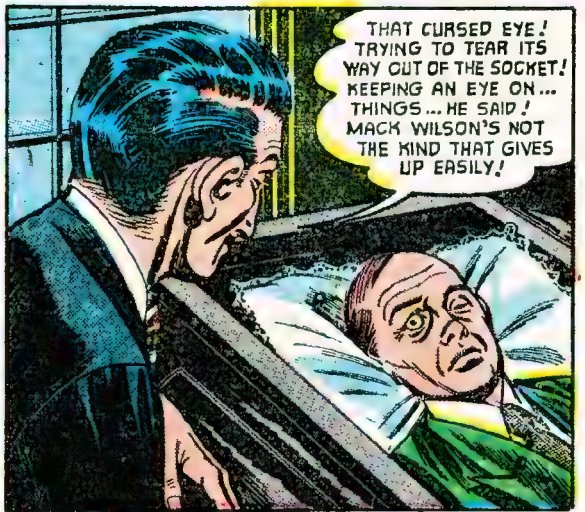
THAT EYE BOTHERS ME!
IT DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT,
BEING OPEN LIKE THAT!
ALMOST AS IF MACK
WAS WATCHING ME!
SEE IF YOU CAN
CLOSE IT,
JACQUES!



BUT
THERE WAS TO
BE NO
CLOSING
OF THAT
CONSTANT
EYE OF
MACK
WILSON'S!
LATER,
AT THE
FUNERAL
PARLOR...

THIS IS THE ROOM, MR. WESTRUM!
WE TRIED, PLEASE BELIEVE ME,
TO GIVE HIS FACE A PEACEFUL
LOOK, BUT WE HAD ONE
DIFFICULTY....

YES,
YES,
I KNOW.

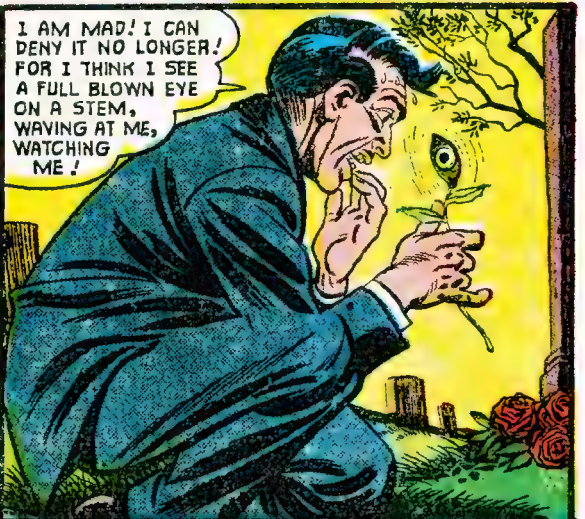


THAT CURSED EYE!
TRYING TO TEAR ITS
WAY OUT OF THE SOCKET!
KEEPING AN EYE ON...
THINGS... HE SAID!
MACK WILSON'S NOT
THE KIND THAT GIVES
UP EASILY!

LATER,
AT THE
FUNERAL
FOR WHICH
JUSTIN WAS
A PALL
BEARER,
THERE WAS
NO RELIEF
FOR THE
KILLER:
WHEN THE
OTHERS HAD
LEFT, JUSTIN
HUNG BEHIND
UNEASILY. A
BOUQUET OF
ROSES HAD
BEEN TOSSED
ON THE
FRESH GRAVE
BY SOME
FRIEND.

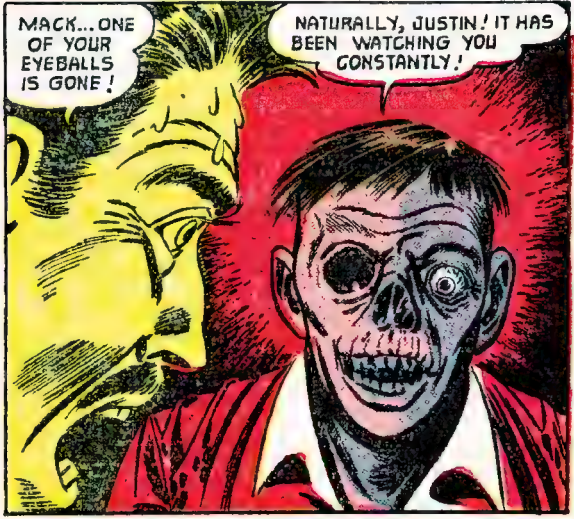


IS IT MY IMAGINATION?
THOSE FLOWERS... THE WIND
SHAKING THEM!



I AM MAD! I CAN
DENY IT NO LONGER!
FOR I THINK I SEE
A FULL BLOWN EYE
ON A STEM,
WAVING AT ME,
WATCHING
ME!

JUSTIN WESTRUM HAD NO PERCE IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED. THE CONSTANT EYE WAS EVERYWHERE. A HARD-BOILED EGG IN HIS HAND BECAME A FLUID, TWISTING EYE. A CAKE OF SOAP BECAME A WET EYEBALL THAT SQUARTED OUT OF HIS HAND. AND ONE NIGHT...



THE EMPTY SOCKET IN MACK WILSON'S HEAD WAS A CIRCLE OF TEMPTATION FOR JUSTIN. IT DREW HIM LIKE A MAGNET. HE SUFFERED A BURNING DESIRE TO PEER WITHIN ITS DARKNESS, TO PENETRATE ITS MYSTERY! AND... SUDDENLY THE SPELL WAS BROKEN, AND TERROR STRUCK!



JUSTIN RAN BLINDLY THROUGH THE CEMETERY, HIS FEET SINKING INTO THE SPONGY EARTH OVER THE GRAVES. HIS BREATH CAME IN HOARSE GASPS LIKE A DEATH RATTLE AND HIS LUNGS ACHED WITH PAIN. FINALLY, EXHAUSTED, HE SANK TO THE GROUND.



I'VE BEEN DYING FOR A SMOKE, JUSTIN! THAT IS... IF A DEAD MAN CAN DIE FOR ANYTHING! LET ME HAVE A CIGARETTE!

MY... PUFF... RIGHT POCKET!



YOUR HEART MUST HAVE BEEN STRAINED SOMEWHAT BY THAT LITTLE RUN, JUSTIN, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT, JUSTIN, BUT I FOUGHT MY WAY BACK FROM THE WORLD OF THE DEAD JUST TO BE AT YOUR SIDE!



AND DO YOU KNOW WHY, JUSTIN? BECAUSE I'M DETERMINED TO SEE THAT YOU KEEP THE TOAST YOU MADE THE NIGHT YOU POISONED ME--THAT WE NEVER PART IN LIFE OR DEATH! THAT WE BE ONE EVEN BEYOND THE GRAVE!



JUSTIN SHUDDERED AS IF EACH OF MACK WILSON'S WORDS WAS A KNIFE CUTTING INTO HIS FLESH... A KNIFE THAT HAD BEEN DIPPED INTO THE MOIST BALL OF DEATH!

I WAS ABLE TO GET MY WHOLE BODY ACROSS THE DIVIDING LINE WHEN I PROMISED TO DELIVER YOU TO THE WORLD OF THE DEAD, JUSTIN!



FAIR WARNING, JUSTIN! MAINTAIN ETERNAL VIGILANCE! FOR THE MOMENT THAT YOU WEAKEN, I'M GOING TO DRAG YOU ACROSS THE BOUNDARY LINE INTO THE WORLD OF THE DEAD!



NOW IT'S MY TURN! I'LL BE YOUR CONSTANT COMPANION INSTEAD OF MY EYE! I'LL GET MY REVENGE!

JUSTIN WESTRUM STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET AND LASHED OUT AT HIS DECAYING TORMENTOR! THEN... SCREAMING IN TERROR... HE RAN FROM THE CEMETERY. ONCE IN HIS APARTMENT, HE BOLTED THE DOORS AND CLOSETED HIMSELF DEEP WITHIN ITS CONFINES.



I ALWAYS HAD IT OVER YOU, MACK! I WAS THE BRAINS OF THE OUT... THE EYES! THEY'VE FOLLOWED ME EVEN HERE! THERE IS NO STOPPING HIM THEN!

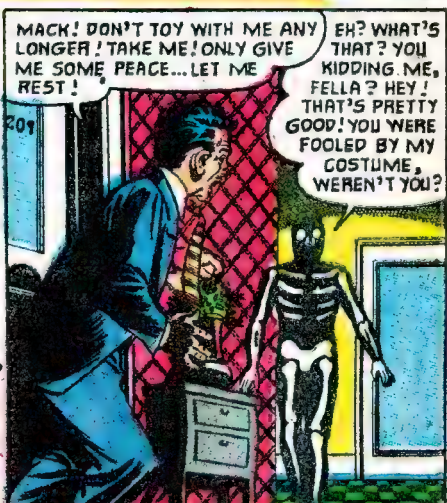
JUSTIN WAS PARALYZED WITH FEAR. FOR, AS HE STOOD THERE, A SECTION OF THE WALL PAPER BEGAN TO BULGE OUT, AND THERE WAS A RIPPING SOUND AS IF AN IMPRISONED BEING WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE!



MAKE READY WITH YOUR FAMOUS HOSPITALITY, JUSTIN! I'VE COME TO JOIN YOU FOR A QUIET EVENING!

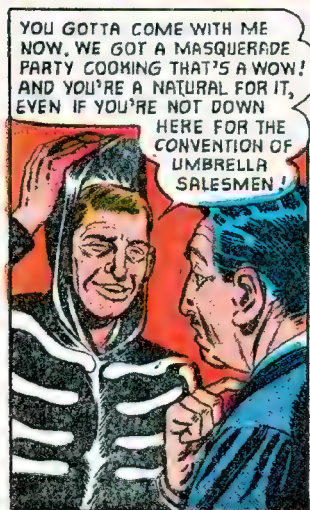
YOU--EVEN HERE! I--I'LL TAKE A ROOM AT A HOTEL!

JUSTIN CHECKED IN AT A HOTEL AND DID NOT STIR FROM HIS ROOM FOR A WEEK. FINALLY, NO LONGER ABLE TO STAND HIS SELF-IMPOSED PRISON, NEEDING A CHANGE DESPERATELY, JUSTIN SNEAKED OUT INTO THE HALL.

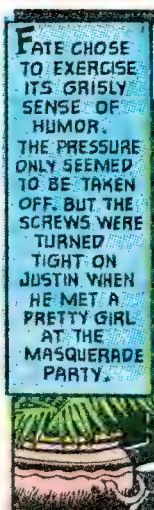


MACK! DON'T TOY WITH ME ANY LONGER! TAKE ME! ONLY GIVE ME SOME PEACE... LET ME REST!

EH? WHAT'S THAT? YOU KIDDING ME, FELLA? HEY! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD! YOU WERE FOOLED BY MY COSTUME, WEREN'T YOU?



YOU GOTTA COME WITH ME NOW. WE GOT A MASQUERADE PARTY COOKING THAT'S A WOW! AND YOU'RE A NATURAL FOR IT, EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT DOWN HERE FOR THE CONVENTION OF UMBRELLA SALESMEN!



FATE CHOSE TO EXERCISE ITS GRISLY SENSE OF HUMOR. THE PRESSURE ONLY SEEMED TO BE TAKEN OFF. BUT THE SCREWS WERE TURNED TIGHT ON JUSTIN WHEN HE MET A PRETTY GIRL AT THE MASQUERADE PARTY.

I THINK WE'LL FIND IT COOLER OUT HERE ON THE TERRACE... AND WE CAN BE ALONE!

I WAS IN LUCK TO MEET YOU. YOU TAKE MY MIND OFF OTHER THINGS!



OVER HERE, WHERE WE CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE CITY!

SAY, IT'S A LITTLE DANGEROUS GOING SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE. WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL!

JUSTIN FELT HIS FLESH CREEP. SOMEWHERE A WARNING SOUNDED. AND A HORRIBLE SUSPICION BEGAN TO GROW IN HIS MIND, FEEDING ON THE TERROR AND THE DREAD THERE.



JUST A SECOND. WHO ARE YOU? TAKE OFF THAT MASK! AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

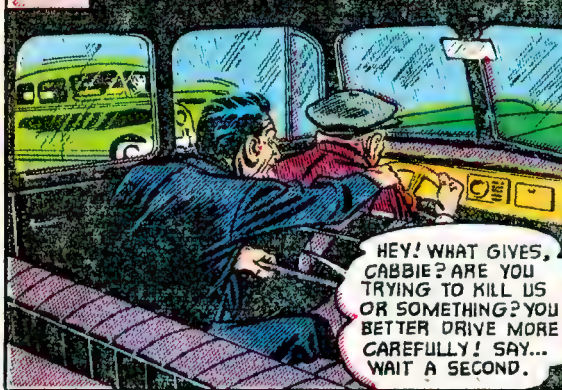
ALL RIGHT! IF YOU WISH!



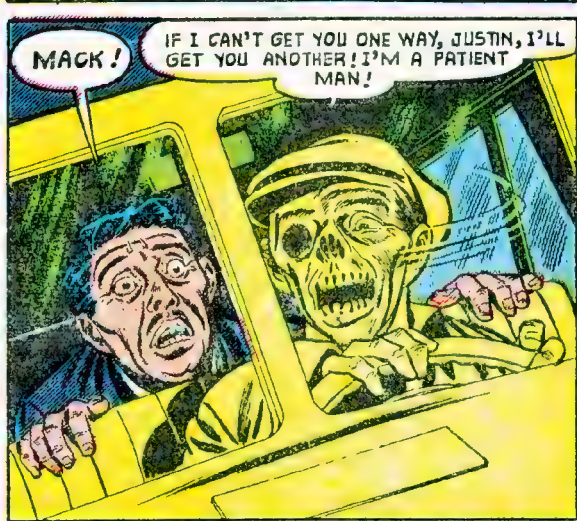
NO!

SURE IT'S ME, MACK WILSON! OVER THAT EDGE, JUSTIN, AND YOU JOIN ME IN THE BEYOND! WE'LL BE AS *ONE* IN DEATH!

JUSTIN BOLIED! HE TORE OUT OF THE HOTEL, RAN DOWN THE STREET AND GRABBED A CAB IN HASTY PANIC! THE CAB ROARED AWAY FROM THE CURB, SHOT THROUGH THE CITY STREETS, BARELY MISSING ACCIDENT AFTER ACCIDENT!

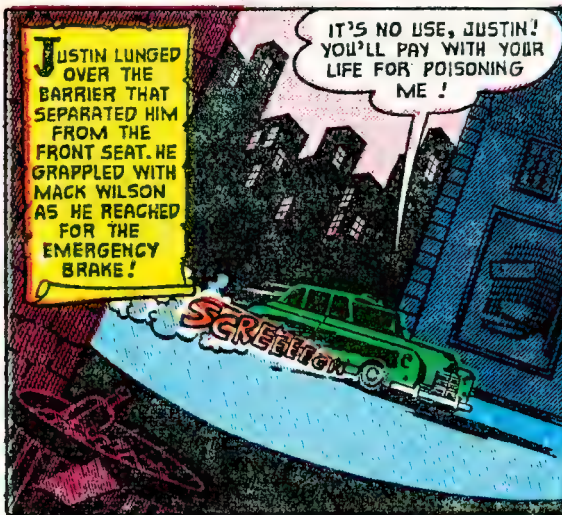


HEY! WHAT GIVES, CABBIE? ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US OR SOMETHING? YOU BETTER DRIVE MORE CAREFULLY! SAY... WAIT A SECOND.



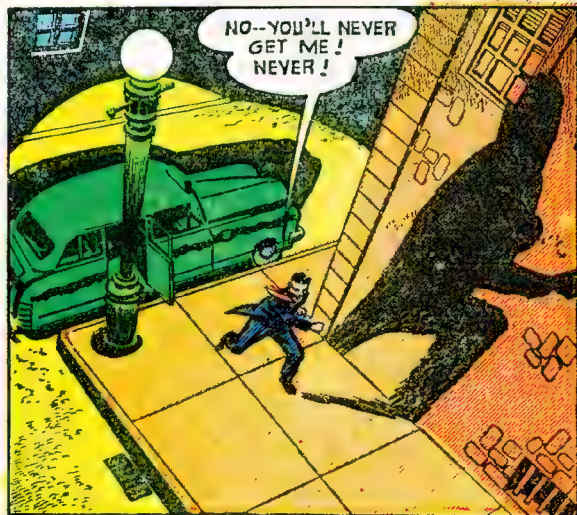
MACK!

IF I CAN'T GET YOU ONE WAY, JUSTIN, I'LL GET YOU ANOTHER! I'M A PATIENT MAN!



JUSTIN LUNGED OVER THE BARRIER THAT SEPARATED HIM FROM THE FRONT SEAT. HE GRAPPLED WITH MACK WILSON AS HE REACHED FOR THE EMERGENCY BRAKE!

IT'S NO USE, JUSTIN! YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE FOR POISONING ME!

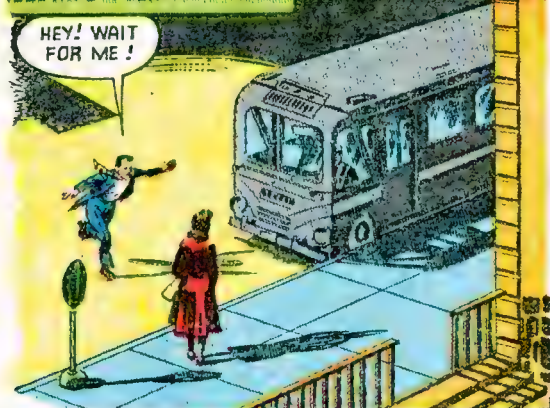


NO--YOU'LL NEVER GET ME! NEVER!

THE
TORMENTED
JUSTIN
WESTRUM RAN
BLINDLY, A
SCREAM
CURDLING IN
THE FROTH
THAT FORMED
ON HIS LIPS.
HE NEEDED
HELP
DESPERATELY.
HE COULD
NO LONGER
FIGHT OFF THE
LIVING DEATH
THAT WAS
MACK WILSON,
BY HIMSELF!



THE EVIL, FOUL CADAYER OF MACK WILSON WAS EVERY-
WHERE. HE WAS IN THE AIR THAT JUSTIN STRUGGLED TO
SUCK INTO HIS LUNGS. HE WAS THE GROUND UNDER
JUSTIN'S POUNDING FEET!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE
WITH ME, JUSTIN? THIS BUS IS AN
EXPRESS! OUR FIRST AND ONLY
STOP IS THE WORLD OF THE
DEAD!

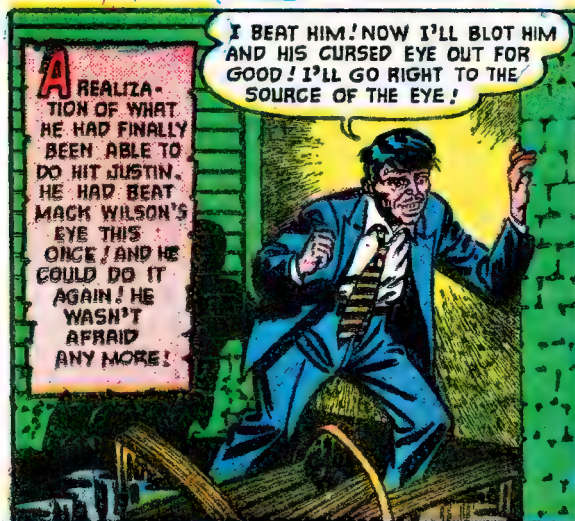
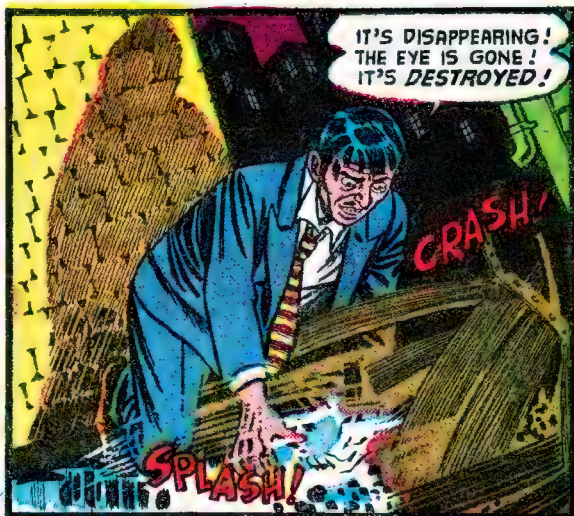
M-MACK!



THERE WAS
NO ESCAPE
APPARENTLY.
MACK'S WORDS
ECHOED
WITH THE
FINALITY OF
TRUTH AND
DEATH!
IT WAS A SAD
AND WEARY
MURDERER
WHOSE DRAG-
GING FOOT-
STEPS MADE A
PATH TO THE
COMFORTING
WARMTH AND
LIGHT OF AN
ALL-NIGHT
DINER!



JUSTIN WESTRUM WAS EXHAUSTED, HE WAS DRAINED OF HOPE AND OF STRENGTH. ONLY TERROR PRODDED HIM INTO MOVING HIS LEADEN FEET. SIGHING BITTERLY, HE SLUMPED AGAINST THE MOIST, BRICK WALL OF AN ALLEY.

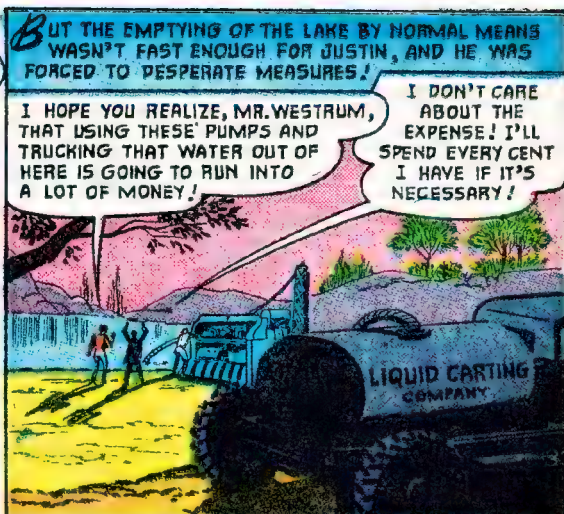


TO JUSTIN'S TWISTED MIND, THE ORIGIN OF THE CONSTANT EYE LAY IN THE WATERS OF THE LAKE, AND HE INTENDED TO WIPE THAT LAKE FROM THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH! JUSTIN MOVED FAST: HE HIRED A CONTRACTOR AND WENT TO WORK!



EVERY DROP OF WATER MUST GO! THAT LAKE BED MUST BE BONE DRY WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED!

YOU'RE THE BOSS, MR. WESTRUM. THAT'S THE WAY IT'LL BE!

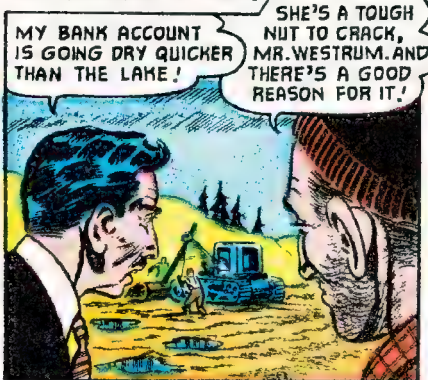


BUT THE EMPTYING OF THE LAKE BY NORMAL MEANS WASN'T FAST ENOUGH FOR JUSTIN, AND HE WAS FORCED TO DESPERATE MEASURES!

I HOPE YOU REALIZE, MR. WESTRUM, THAT USING THESE PUMPS AND TRUCKING THAT WATER OUT OF HERE IS GOING TO RUN INTO A LOT OF MONEY!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE EXPENSE! I'LL SPEND EVERY CENT I HAVE IF IT'S NECESSARY!

THE JOB OF DRAINING THE LAKE COMPLETELY DRY SEEMED TO BE ENDLESS. FOR THE LAKE WAS STUBBORN AND SEEMED TO STRUGGLE TO REFILL ITSELF, SCORNFUL OF THE MODERN TECHNOLOGY THAT JUSTIN WAS BRINGING TO BEAR!



MY BANK ACCOUNT IS GOING DRY QUICKER THAN THE LAKE!

SHE'S A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK, MR. WESTRUM. AND THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR IT!

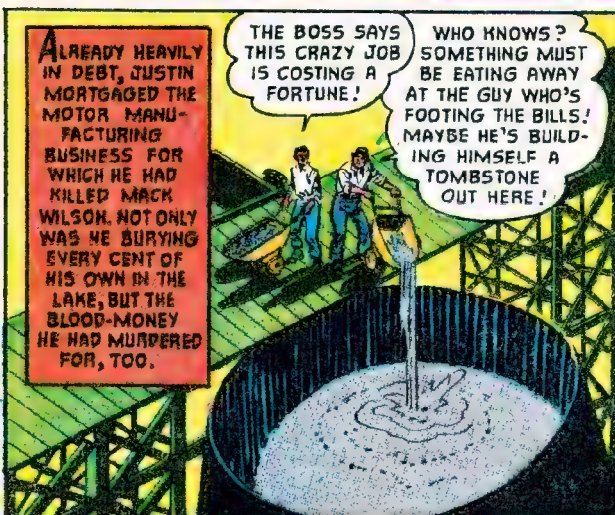


I'M PRETTY SURE THE LAKE IS BEING FED OUT THERE BY AN UNDERGROUND SPRING ALMOST AS FAST AS WE CAN TAKE THE WATER OUT!

YES, THAT WOULD BE THE SPOT! RIGHT WHERE I SLIPPED MACK'S BODY INTO THE LAKE ... WHERE I FIRST SAW THE EYE!



EVERY CENT I HAVE GOES INTO FINISHING THIS JOB! I WANT THAT SPRING CAPPED. BLOCK OFF THAT WATER WITH A CONCRETE PILE! SINK IT BELOW LAKE BOTTOM!



ALREADY HEAVILY IN DEBT, JUSTIN MORTGAGED THE MOTOR MANUFACTURING BUSINESS FOR WHICH HE HAD KILLED MACK WILSON. NOT ONLY WAS HE BURYING EVERY CENT OF HIS OWN IN THE LAKE, BUT THE BLOOD-MONEY HE HAD MURDERED FOR, TOO.

THE BOSS SAYS THIS CRAZY JOB IS COSTING A FORTUNE!

WHO KNOWS? SOMETHING MUST BE EATING AWAY AT THE GUY WHO'S FOOTING THE BILLS! MAYBE HE'S BUILDING HIMSELF A TOMBSTONE OUT HERE!



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE CONCRETE TO HARDEN AND THE SPRING WILL BE DAMMED UP! THE LAKE'LL BE GONE...THE EYE DESTROYED...AND ALONG WITH IT, MACK WILSON! I'LL BE FREE FOREVER!

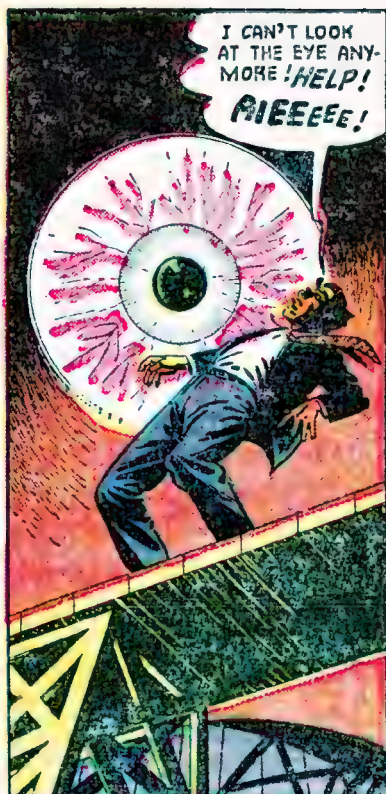


FINALLY, ALL THE CONCRETE WAS POURED. THE CONTRACTOR AND HIS MEN PACKED UP AND MOVED OUT. JUSTIN BELIEVED THAT HE HAD WON. BUT THAT LAST NIGHT.....

I WANT TO GLOAT AND WATCH THE CONCRETE HARDEN. I WANT TO KNOW THAT I AM SEALING THE EYE AND MACK WILSON INTO THE WORLD OF THE DEAD!



NO! I'M GOING MAD! IT IS NOT THE MOON UP IN THE SKY! IT'S THE EYE! THE EYE! AND... ALL THIS WAS FOR NOTHING! THERE IS NO ESCAPE!



I CAN'T LOOK AT THE EYE ANYMORE! HELP! AIEEEEE!



JUSTIN HIT THE CONCRETE WITH A LIQUID, SUCKING SOUND! THE STILL SOFT CONCRETE GRIPPED HIM LIKE A RELENTLESS, HUNGRY MOUTH... SWALLOWING!

NO! SOMEBODY HEAR ME! THERE'S STILL TIME! I CAN BE SAVED! I CAN BE SAVED! I CAN BE SAVED!



THUS DID THE MURDERER GO TO HIS DEATH. HE HAD BEEN KEPT TO THE WORD OF HIS TOAST OF ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP BY THE MAN HE HAD KILLED, AND JUSTIN WESTRUM JOINED HIS VICTIM IN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD!



BLACK MAGIC in a Slinky Gown



I-- I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! YOU'VE SPUN A SPIDER'S WEB! I CAN'T GET OUT! I-- I CAN'T BREATHE! I'M CHOKING! ARGHHHH!

NOW FOR THE BITE OF DEATH! I SHALL TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO A BLACK WIDOW SPIDER!

MILLIONAIRE RICHARD DELLOY, COLLECTOR OF DEAD SPECIES OF SPIDERS, NEVER REALIZED THAT IN MARRYING AWESOMELY BEAUTIFUL LEONORE BLACK, HE HAD COMPLETED HIS SPIDER COLLECTION IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! FOR THE SPELL WHICH LEONORE EXERTED OVER MEN WAS STRONGER THAN THE MERE ALLURE OF A CHARMING WOMAN. IT WAS THE DEADLY FASCINATION OF A HUMAN SPIDER BENT ON DESTROYING HUMAN "FLIES"!

AT THE WEDDING RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE MARRIAGE OF LEONORE BLACK TO RICHARD DELLOY...

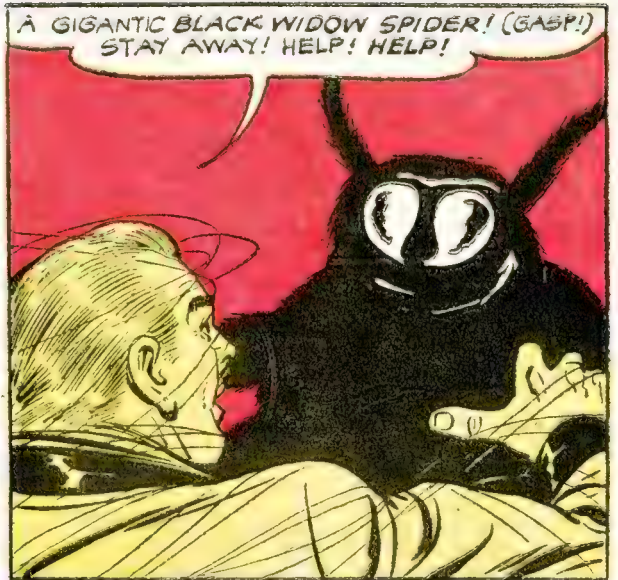
CONGRATULATIONS, LEONORE! I WAS A FOOL TO HAVE THOUGHT MY LOVE FOR YOU COULD COMPETE AGAINST DELLOY'S MILLIONS!

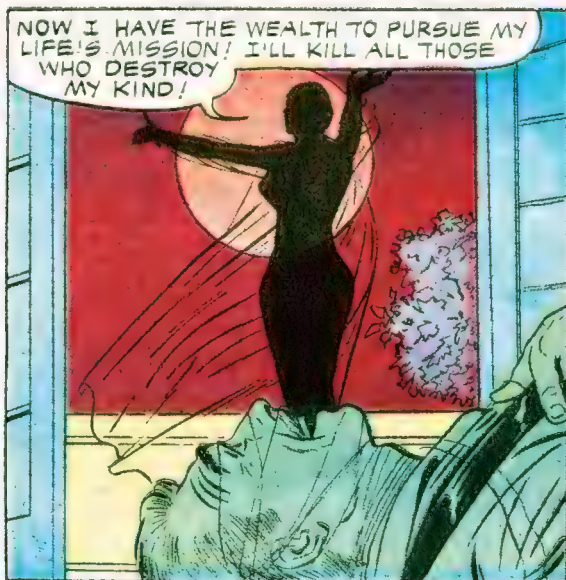
YOU'RE BITTER, DAN, BECAUSE I GAVE YOU NO WARNING WHEN I BROKE OUR ENGAGEMENT. BUT SOME DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!

GOOD GRIEF, LEONORE! WHAT DID YOU SEE IN DELLOY? CERTAINLY HIS COLLECTION OF DEAD SPIDERS COULDN'T ATTRACT YOU!

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE! STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN! I MIGHT BECOME A WIDOW SOONER THAN ANYBODY EXPECTS!







NOW I HAVE THE WEALTH TO PURSUE MY LIFE'S MISSION! I'LL KILL ALL THOSE WHO DESTROY MY KIND!



THREE HOURS LATER...

YOU'RE **SURE** YOU SAW NOTHING, HEARD NOTHING, MRS. DELLOY? THE CORONER NEVER SAW A CASE LIKE THIS!

IT'S AS IF A MAMMOTH BLACK WIDOW SPIDER GOT HIM! THEN THERE'S THESE WISPS OF SILK WEB! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!



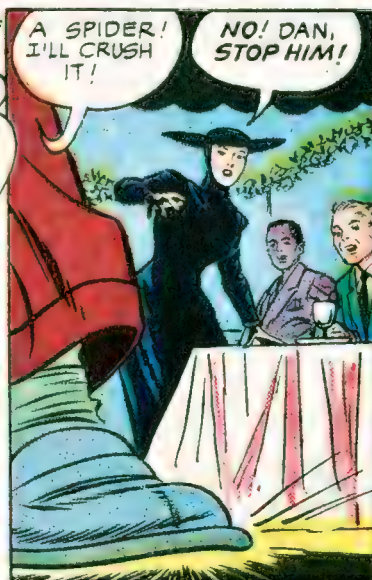
THAT'S FOR YOU POLICE TO DECIDE! NOW YOU MUST EXCUSE ME! I'M QUITE WORN OUT! A MURDER ON MY HONEYMOON NIGHT...

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT A FASHIONABLE OUTDOOR RESTAURANT...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR BEING SO INDIFFERENT TO DELLOY'S DEATH! DIDN'T YOU LOVE HIM?

I TOLD YOU, I LOVE ONLY YOU, YOU SOFT-HEARTED FOOL!

GEORGE! LOOK! UNDER THE TABLE! KILL IT!



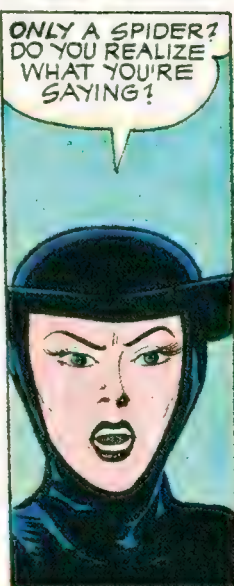
A SPIDER! I'LL CRUSH IT!

NO! DAN, STOP HIM!



HE KILLED IT! HE SQUASHED IT WITH HIS FOOT! THE MURDERER!

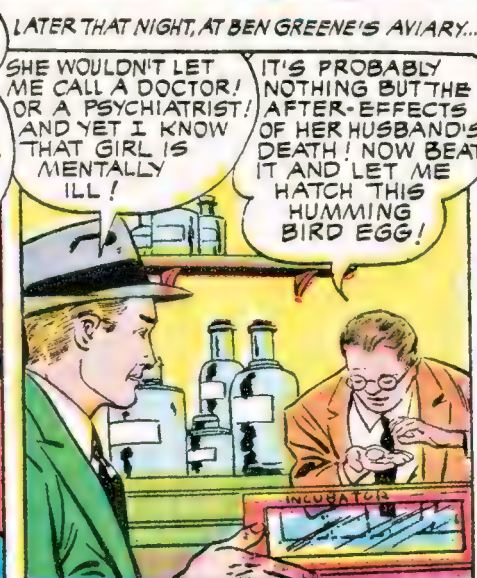
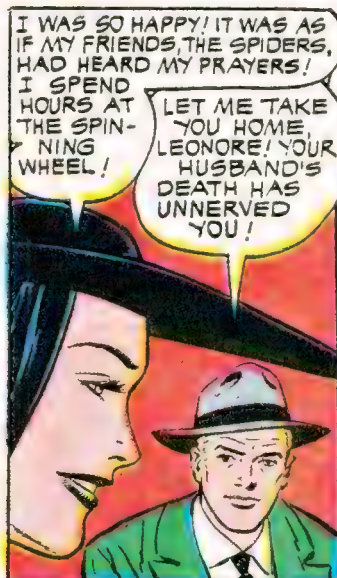
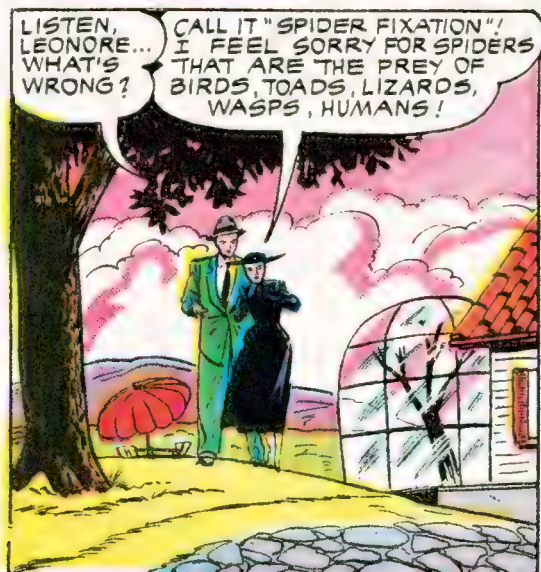
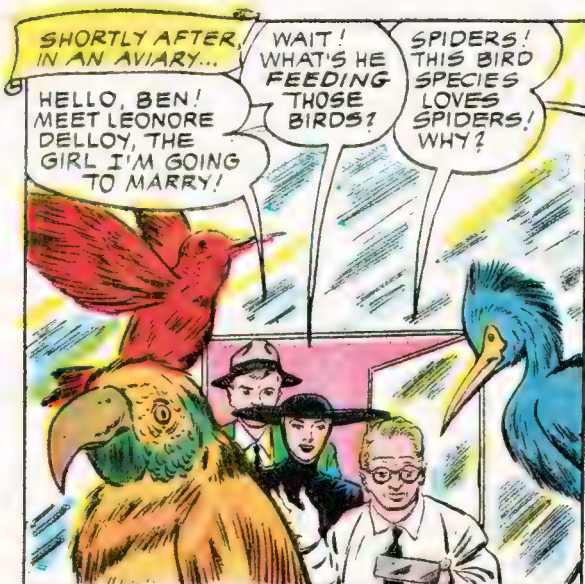
LEONORE! IT'S ONLY A SPIDER!

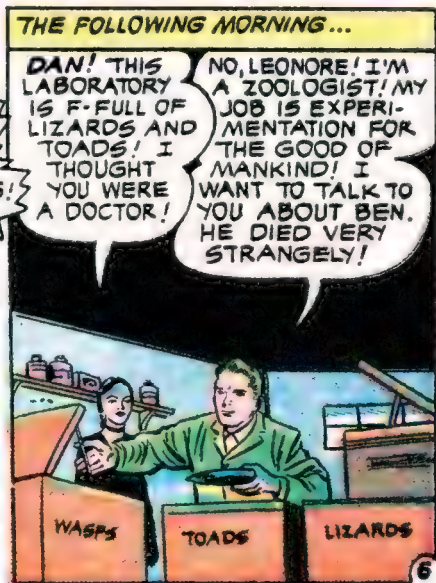
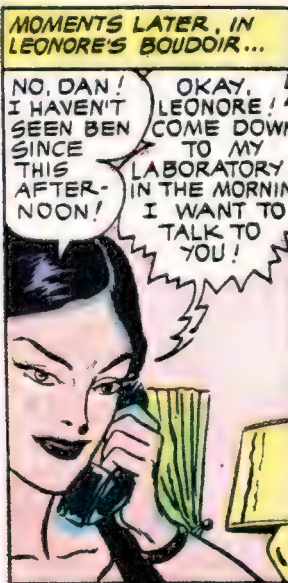
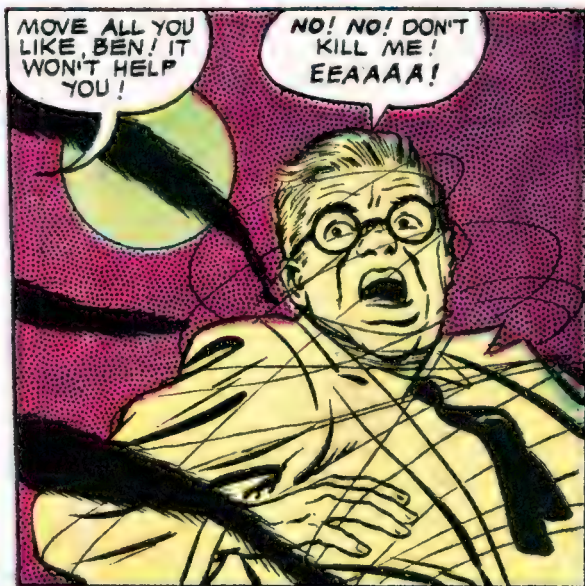


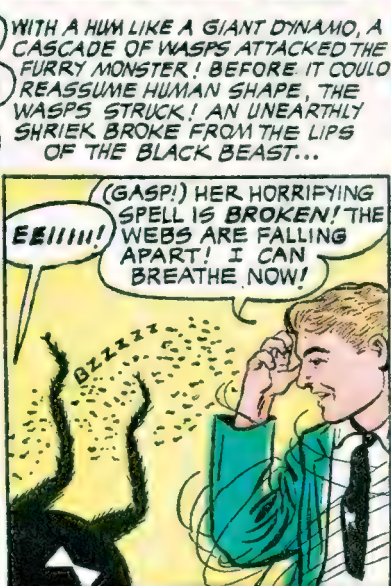
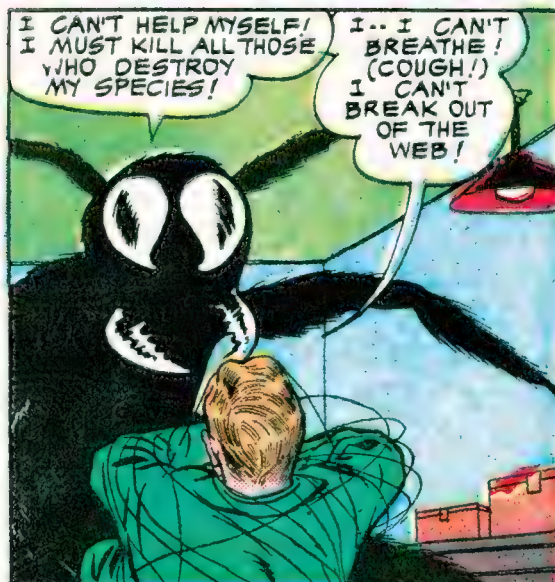
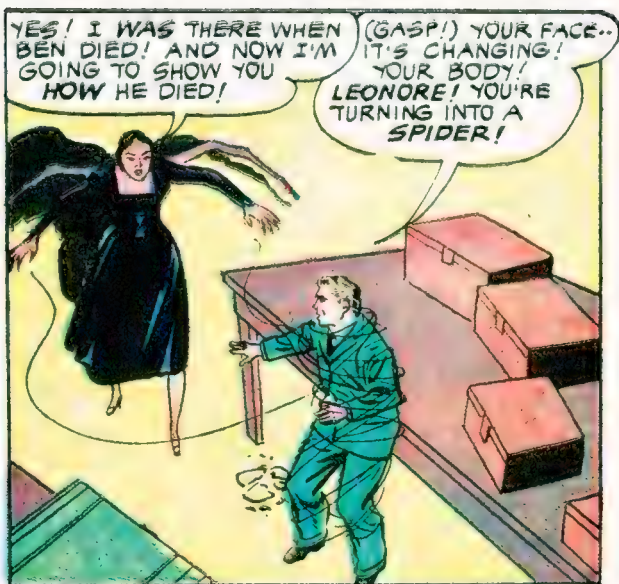
ONLY A SPIDER? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! LET'S VISIT THIS FRIEND YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT! BEN GREENE!







When the creatures of space come from the blackness of the night sky, think twice before you accept a job from them! You may have to work in the ---

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE!

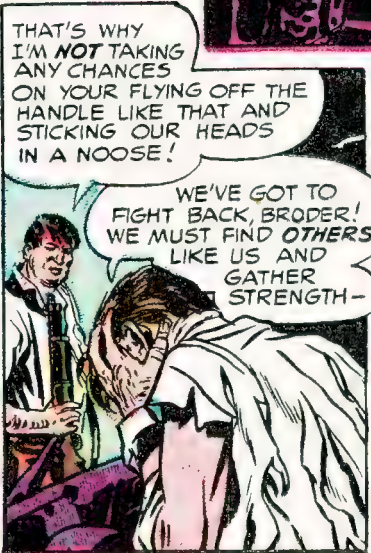
OF COURSE THIS STORY
COULD NEVER BE TRUE.
COULD IT?

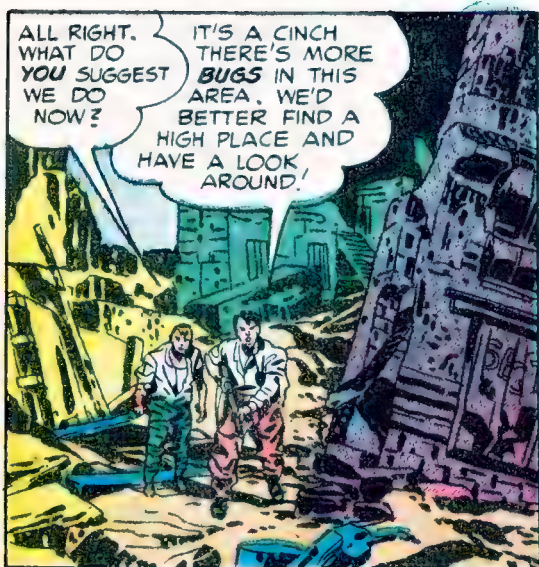


"ONE DAY THE SAUCERS LANDED. I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT DATE. IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW, ANYHOW. THE BUGS (WE HAVE NO OTHER NAME FOR THEM) CAME BY NIGHT, AND BY MORNING, THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS A SHAMBLER RUIN. BUT, WE DIDN'T ALL DIE. SOME OF US LIVED - AND HOPED. MEN LIKE MYSELF, **PROFESSOR JOHN MANNING**.

ONE SHOT WILL BRING AN ARMY OF THOSE BUGS AFTER US!

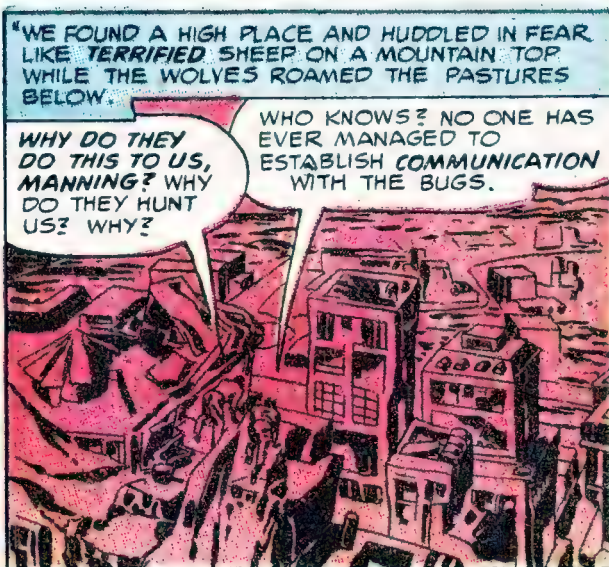
LET ME KILL THEM! LET ME KILL JUST ONE OF THOSE DIRTY--





ALL RIGHT.
WHAT DO
YOU SUGGEST
WE DO
NOW?

IT'S A CINCH
THERE'S MORE
BUGS IN THIS
AREA. WE'D
BETTER FIND A
HIGH PLACE AND
HAVE A LOOK
AROUND.



"WE FOUND A HIGH PLACE AND HUDDLED IN FEAR
LIKE **TERRIFIED** SHEEP ON A MOUNTAIN TOP
WHILE THE WOLVES ROAMED THE PASTURES
BELOW.

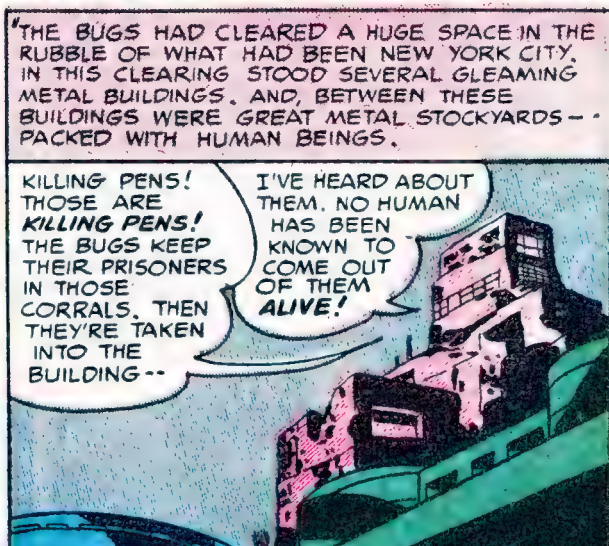
**WHY DO THEY
DO THIS TO US,
MANNING?** WHY
DO THEY HUNT
US? WHY?

WHO KNOWS? NO ONE HAS
EVER MANAGED TO
ESTABLISH **COMMUNICATION**
WITH THE **BUGS**.



BUT NEVER MIND THAT
NOW. **LOOK THERE!**

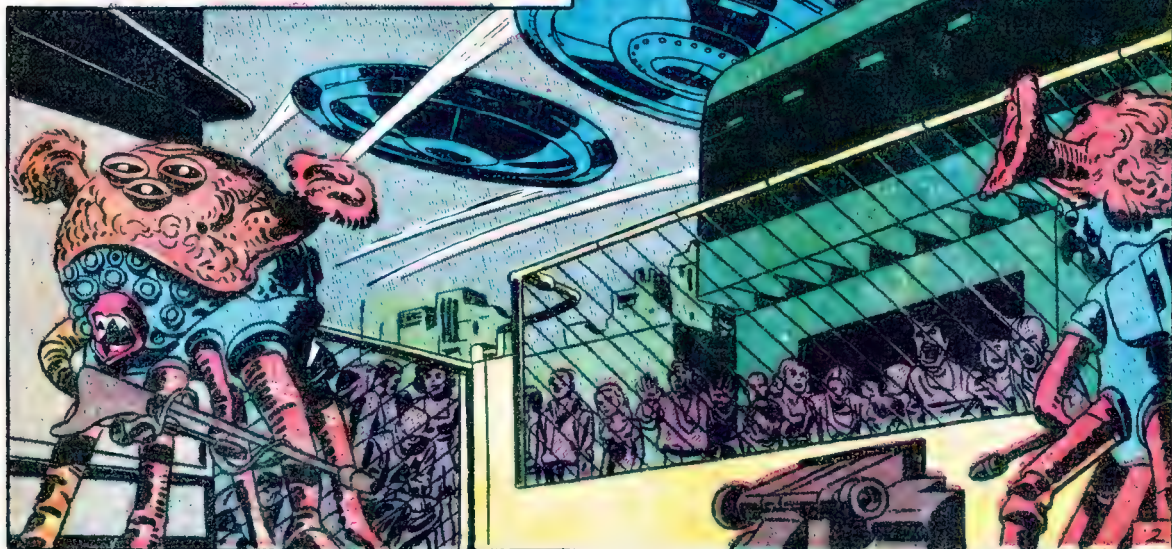
THE **BUGS** HAVE
PUT UP SOME
BUILDINGS OF
THEIR **OWN--**

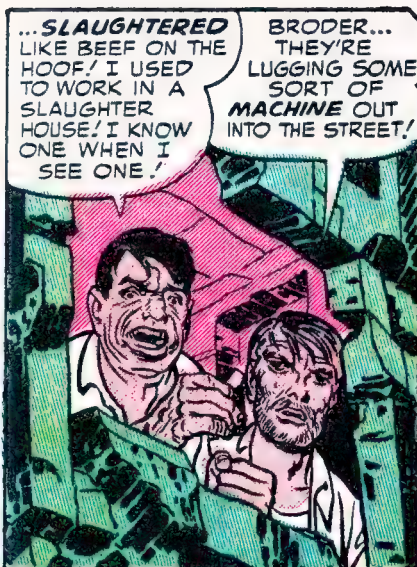


"THE **BUGS** HAD CLEARED A HUGE SPACE IN THE
RUBBLE OF WHAT HAD BEEN NEW YORK CITY.
IN THIS CLEARING STOOD SEVERAL GLEAMING
METAL BUILDINGS. AND, BETWEEN THESE
BUILDINGS WERE GREAT METAL STOCKYARDS --
PACKED WITH HUMAN BEINGS.

KILLING PENS!
THOSE ARE
KILLING PENS!
THE **BUGS** KEEP
THEIR PRISONERS
IN THOSE
CORRALS. THEN
THEY'RE TAKEN
INTO THE
BUILDING --

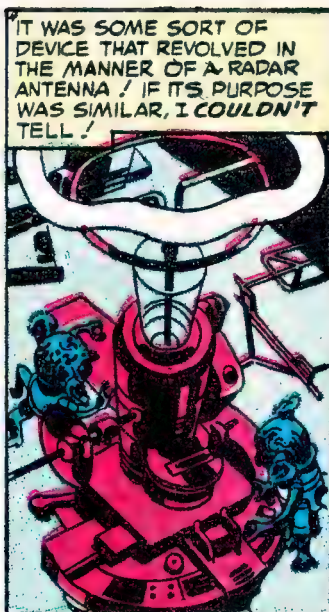
I'VE HEARD ABOUT
THEM. NO HUMAN
HAS BEEN
KNOWN TO
COME OUT
OF THEM
ALIVE!



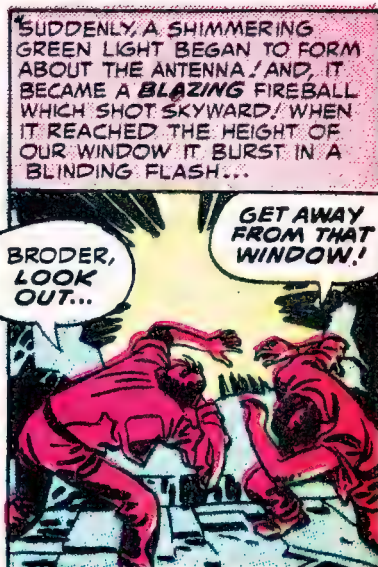


...SLAUGHTERED LIKE BEEF ON THE HOOF! I USED TO WORK IN A SLAUGHTER HOUSE! I KNOW ONE WHEN I SEE ONE!

BRODER... THEY'RE LUGGING SOME SORT OF MACHINE OUT INTO THE STREET!



IT WAS SOME SORT OF DEVICE THAT REVOLVED IN THE MANNER OF A RADAR ANTENNA! IF ITS PURPOSE WAS SIMILAR, I COULDN'T TELL!



BRODER, LOOK OUT...

GET AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW!



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I THINK THEY'VE SEEN US!

TERROR WAS A TWISTING STEEL KNOT IN MY STOMACH! I RAN WITH BRODER... LIKE ONE OF THE VERMIN SCURRY IN THE SHATTERED STEEL CORPSE OF THE BUILDING! BRODER CAME TO AN ABRUPT HALT AS I COLLIDED WITH HIM!



BRODER... WHAT IS IT?

THAT SOUND... SOMEONE'S COMING...

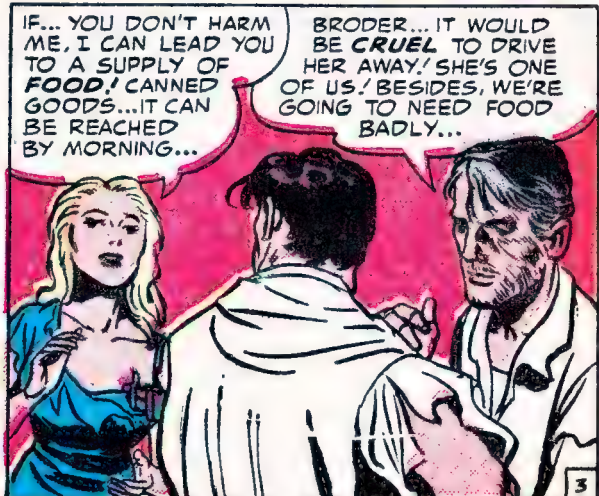
FIRST THERE WAS THE FRIGHTENING SHADOW ON THE WALL... THEN THE GIRL EMERGED FROM THE DARKNESS! I BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF! BUT, BRODER DIDN'T SLACKEN HIS PRESSURE ON THE RIFLE'S TRIGGER!



HOLD IT, BRODER! IT'S A... GIRL!

WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO STOP AND GAB WITH DAMES! GET OUT OF OUR WAY, BABY!

PLEASE, DON'T SHOOT!



IF... YOU DON'T HARM ME, I CAN LEAD YOU TO A SUPPLY OF FOOD! CANNED GOODS... IT CAN BE REACHED BY MORNING...

BRODER... IT WOULD BE CRUEL TO DRIVE HER AWAY! SHE'S ONE OF US! BESIDES, WE'RE GOING TO NEED FOOD BADLY...

SHE CAME CLOSER, AND, EVEN BRODER GASPED AT HER BEAUTY, BUT HIS DESIRE TO ESCAPE *STILL* HELD HIM IN ITS GRIP...

MY NAME IS **ALICE HARPER!** I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN SAY... I...

FOR PITY'S SAKE, **BRODER!** LISTEN...

PITY'S A THING OF THE PAST, **PROF!** CAN'T WASTE TIME ON IT!



CAN'T YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR NOGGIN THAT NOTHING COUNTS ANY MORE EXCEPT YOUR OWN HIDE, **PROF!** THOSE BUGS KNOW WE'RE IN HERE! WE GOTTA SCRAM! **NOW!** OR IT'S THE CHOPPIN' BLOCK FOR US...

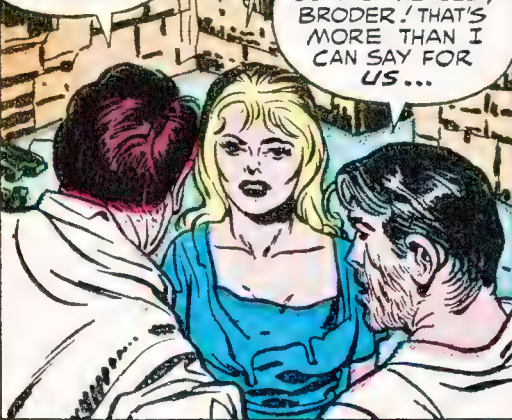
THERE'S **NOTHING** TO WORRY ABOUT! I... I KNOW A WAY OUT OF HERE THAT CAN GET US PAST THE BUGS...



YOU DO, EH? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D TAKE A CHANCE WITH **YOU!**

BUT, I DO KNOW A WAY OUT... IF YOU'LL ONLY **TRUST** ME...

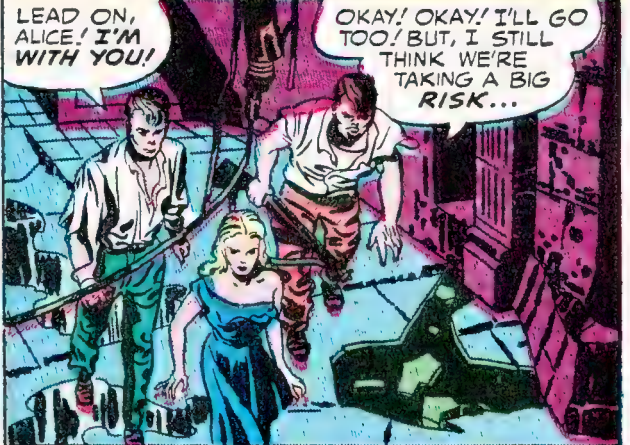
SHE SOUNDS PRETTY SURE OF HERSELF, **BRODER!** THAT'S MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR **US...**



I COULDN'T HELP, BUT, MARVEL AT THE SERENITY OF THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE, HER PRESENCE SEEMED TO **EASE** MY DESPERATION AND DESPAIR, SHE BECAME A SYMBOL OF HOPE, A STRAIN TO CLING TO IN A SEA OF TERROR!

LEAD ON, **ALICE!** I'M WITH YOU!

OKAY! OKAY! I'LL GO TOO! BUT, I STILL THINK WE'RE TAKING A BIG **RISK...**



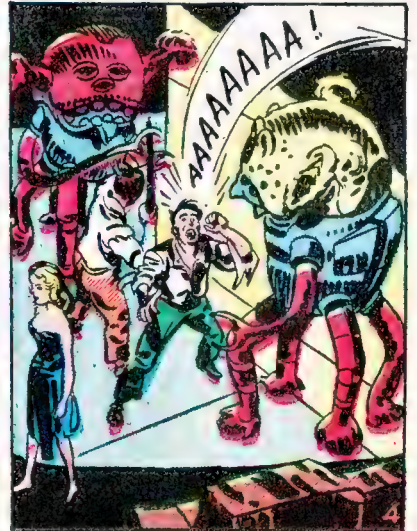
AND, SO, WE FOLLOWED HER... GROPING OUR WAY THROUGH THE DARK, TOMB-LIKE SILENCE! MY THOUGHTS ABOUT ALICE BEGAN TO CLOUD OUT ALL ELSE, HOW **LUCKY** I WAS TO HAVE FOUND HER IN THAT NIGHTMARE OF A WORLD...



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE WALKED, BUT, ALICE FINALLY LED US TO A RUINED DOOR WHICH OPENED ON THE STREET OUTSIDE!

HEY, DON'T WALK RIGHT OUT, IT MIGHT **NOT** BE SAFE...

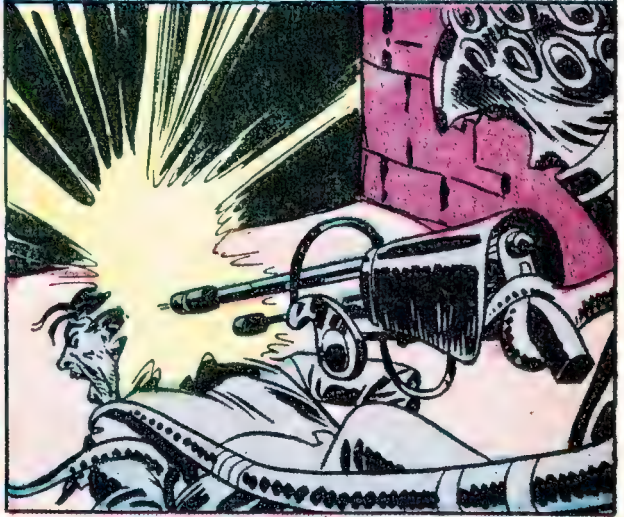
IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU'LL SEE...



THEY GOT BRODER AND ME AS SOON AS WE SET FOOT OUTSIDE. I COULD HEAR HIM FIRING AS I **STRUGGLED** FOR MY OWN LIFE.



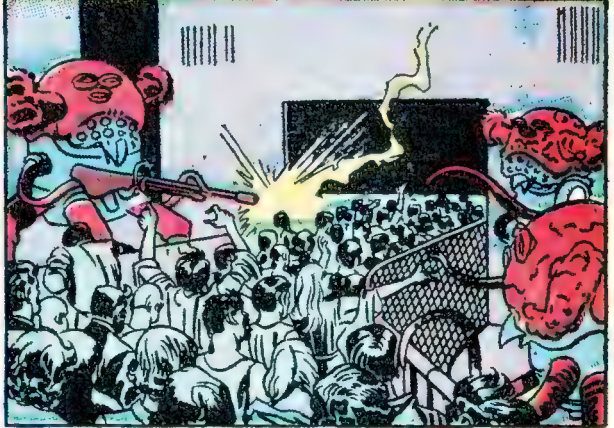
SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A **SHARP**, STABBING PAIN IN THE BACK OF MY SKULL--AND I **BLACKED OUT**!



I KNEW WHERE I WAS, THE INSTANT I OPENED MY EYES. THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE HOPELESS, MISERABLE HUMANS WERE CROWDED TOGETHER TO WAIT THEIR TURN TO BE DRAGGED TO DOOM-- **I WAS IN THE KILLING PENS.**



WHEN THE BUGS WALKED INTO THE PENS, THE MOB SET UP A TERRIBLE HOWL--MINGLED WITH CRIES AND SHOUTS AND CURSING. THE BUGS USED SOME VERY **PAINFUL** MEANS TO WHIP THEM INTO A LINE--WHICH LED INTO THE DREADED BUILDINGS--



AS I WAS HERDED TOWARD THE YAWNING DOOR-- I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE AND BECAME **VIOLENTLY SICK!**



I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF FAINTING WHEN I FELT MYSELF **LIFTED** INTO THE AIR --



--AND DEPOSITED SOMEWHERE, OUTSIDE THE KILLING PENS. I GOT SHAKILY TO MY FEET--AND FOUND MYSELF FACE TO FACE WITH **ALICE HARPER**--

SO IT'S YOU! YOU LED BRODER AND ME INTO A TRAP! DELIVERED US TO THOSE MONSTERS.

I HAD TO, IT IS MY **JOB**—



SO **THAT'S** WHAT YOU ARE...A JUDAS GOAT! USED BY THEM TO LURE THE STRAYS TO THE KILLING PENS! HOW ROTTEN CAN A HUMAN BEING GET!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN STAY ALIVE...BEING **USEFUL** TO THE BUGS!

YOU CAN HAVE THE **SAME** CHANCE! I LIKE YOU! I POINTED YOU OUT TO THE BUGS... THEY'LL LET YOU LIVE TOO...IF YOU DO THIS WORK FOR THEM...

WHAT? YOU MEAN THAT I'M TO...

SURE, PROF! DON'T FEEL ASHAMED! THERE'S NO WRONG OR RIGHT ANY MORE...FOR US...JUST **LIFE OR DEATH...** THAT'S THE CHOICE...

BUT IT'S... HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!

"SUDDENLY, THERE WAS THE SOUND OF **SCREAMING...** OF RUNNING FEET! I SAW BRODER DASHING TOWARD ME WITH A BUG IN PURSUIT!"

PROF! PROF! **THEY'RE AFTER ME!** DON'T LET THEM GET ME, PROF!

GREAT SCOTT! **BRODER!**

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO TO ME, PROF! **I DON'T WANT TO DIE...** NOT THAT WAY! I'M A MAN, PROF! TELL 'EM I'M A MAN... AND, YOU DON'T DO THOSE THINGS TO MEN...

BRODER, I... I...

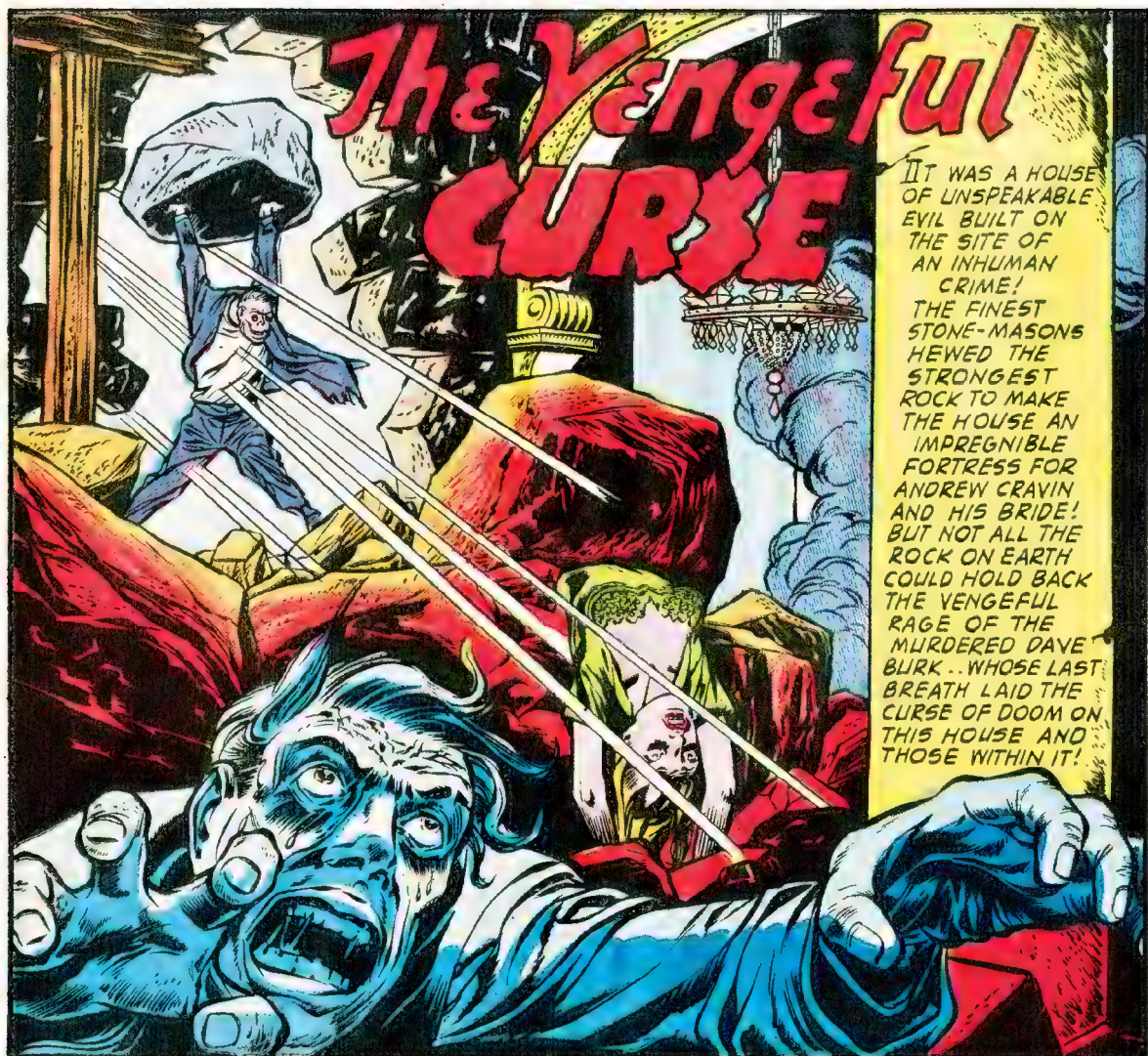
DON'T MAKE A MOVE, PROF...

WHY DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND? WE'RE **NOT** ANIMALS! TELL 'EM, PROF! TELL 'EM... **AAAAGHH!**

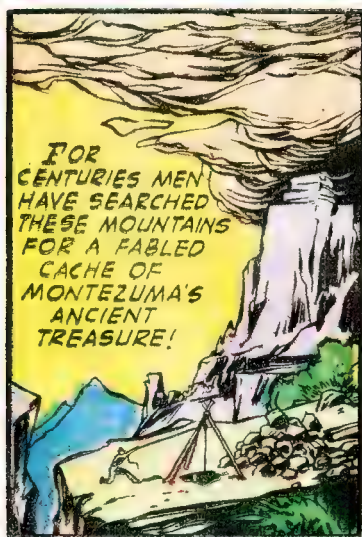
"I SAW THEM DRAG BRODER AWAY... KICKING AND SCREAMING. AND I COULD NOT HELP HIM... IN THAT MOMENT OF HUMILIATING RESIGNATION I SHED A **FINAL**, SOUL-WRENCHING TEAR AS A HUMAN BEING!"

"CAN THIS BE THE **STORY OF TOMORROW?** PERHAPS... AT ANY RATE, IT'S AN ANGLE TO CONSIDER... ESPECIALLY, FOR THOSE WHO EXPECT A VISITATION FROM SPACE TO BRING US DREAMS FULFILLED BY THE HANDS OF AN ALIEN CULTURE."

THE END



IT WAS A HOUSE OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL BUILT ON THE SITE OF AN INHUMAN CRIME! THE FINEST STONE-MASONS HEWED THE STRONGEST ROCK TO MAKE THE HOUSE AN IMPREGNIBLE FORTRESS FOR ANDREW CRAVIN AND HIS BRIDE! BUT NOT ALL THE ROCK ON EARTH COULD HOLD BACK THE VENGEFUL RAGE OF THE MURDERED DAVE BURK... WHOSE LAST BREATH LAID THE CURSE OF DOOM ON THIS HOUSE AND THOSE WITHIN IT!



FOR CENTURIES MEN HAVE SEARCHED THESE MOUNTAINS FOR A FABLED CACHE OF MONTEZUMA'S ANCIENT TREASURE!

BUT IT REMAINED FOR ANDREW CRAVIN AND HIS FRIEND, DAVE BURK, TO ACTUALLY STUMBLE ON THE FABULOUS HORDE!

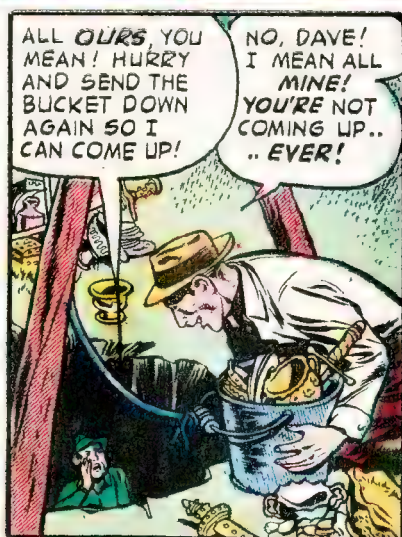
THAT'S THE LAST LOAD, ANDREW! WE'VE CLEANED IT OUT!

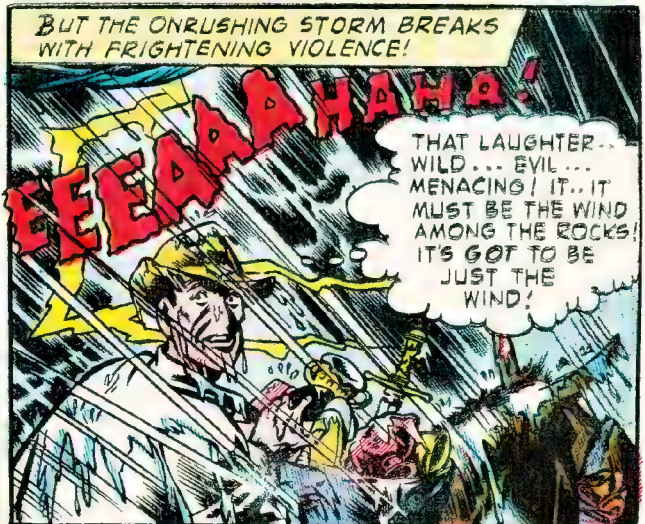
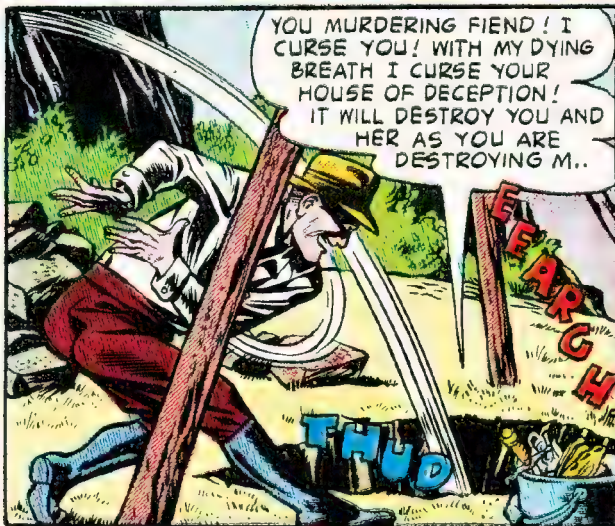
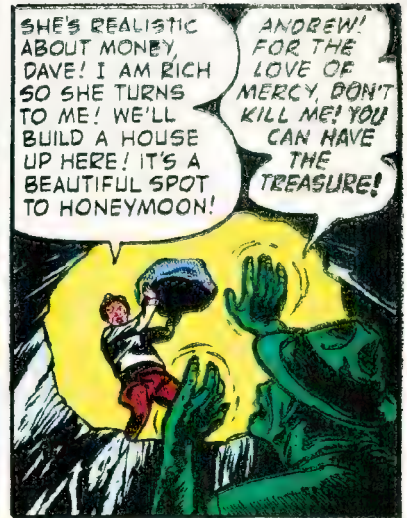
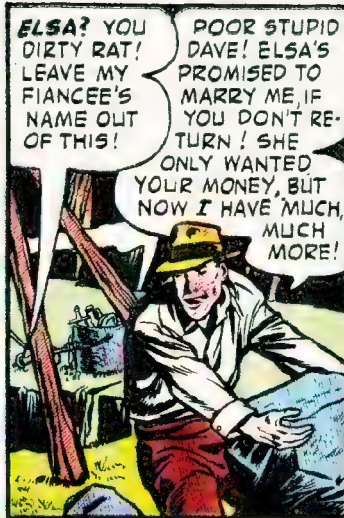
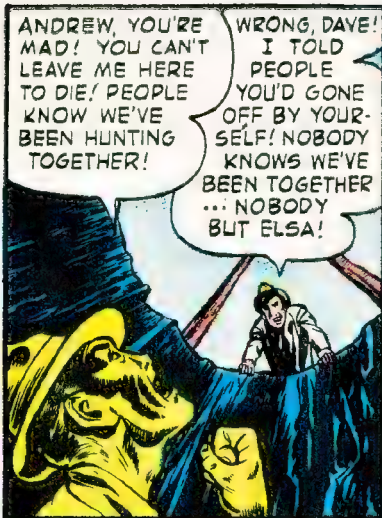
MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD AND JEWELS, DAVE! A KING'S RANSOM... AND IT'S ALL MINE!

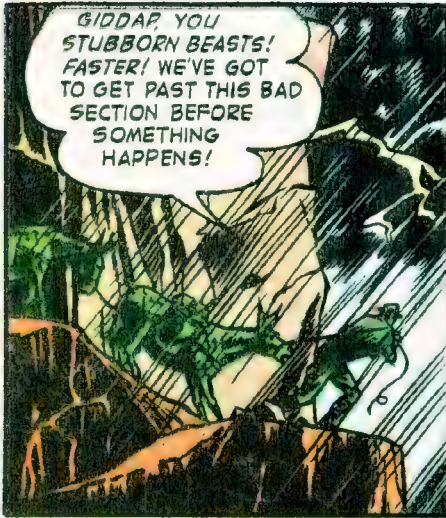


ALL OURS, YOU MEAN! HURRY AND SEND THE BUCKET DOWN AGAIN SO I CAN COME UP!

NO, DAVE! I MEAN ALL MINE! YOU'RE NOT COMING UP.. .. EVER!





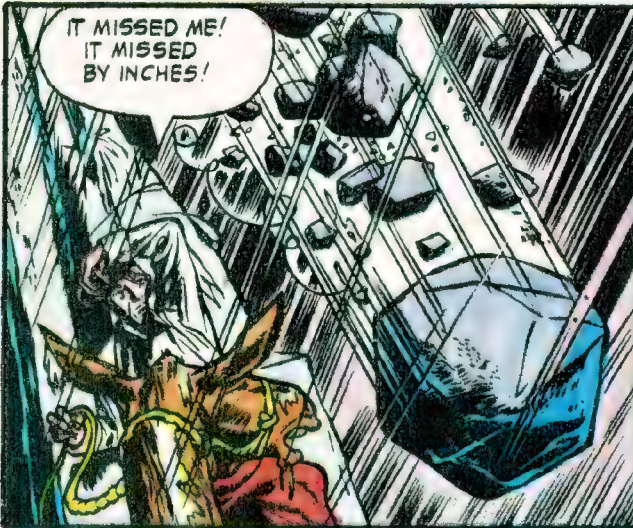


GIDDAP, YOU
STUBBORN BEASTS!
FASTER! WE'VE GOT
TO GET PAST THIS BAD
SECTION BEFORE
SOMETHING
HAPPENS!



SUDDENLY...

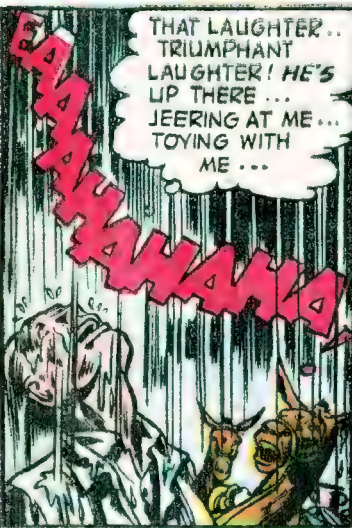
EEEEAAHH!



IT MISSED ME!
IT MISSED
BY INCHES!



MY--MY NERVES ARE
GETTING ME! THAT'S
WHAT IT IS ... **NERVES!**
I ... I HAD A FEELING HE
WAS FREE AND WAITING TO
DESTROY ME! BUT I'M
SAFE ...



THAT LAUGHTER..
TRIUMPHANT
LAUGHTER! HE'S
UP THERE ...
JEERING AT ME...
TOYING WITH
ME ...

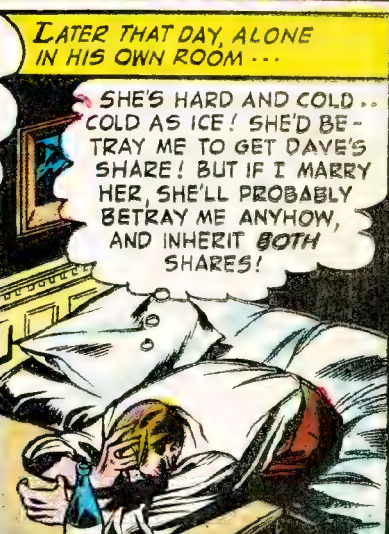
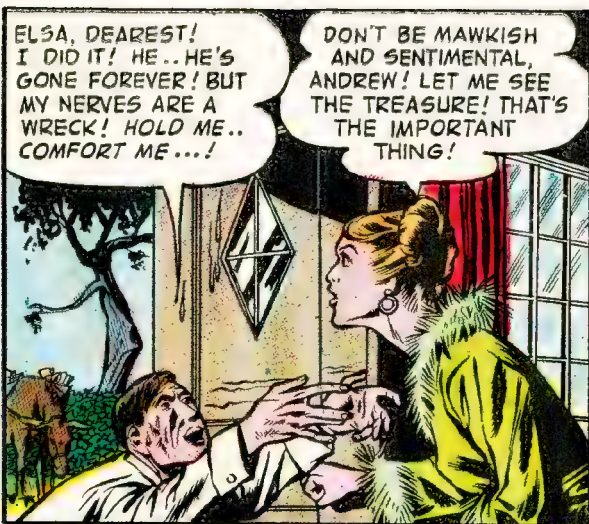


I'M GETTING OUT OF THE
MOUNTAINS! I'LL NEVER GO
BACK! HE'S WAITING
UP THERE ... WAITING
FOR ME TO COME BACK
SO HE CAN GET HIS
REVENGE!



WITH THE GANN

THANK HEAVEN, I
MADE IT! I'M SAFE ...
AND SO IS THE
TREASURE!
**ELSA! ELSA! LET
ME IN! IT'S
ANDREW!**



BUT THE NEXT DAY THE SUN SHONE AND BIRDS SANG AND THE DARK TERRORS OF NIGHT AND STORM NO LONGER HOVERED OVER ANDREW CRAVEN!

WHY, THIS IS A LOVELY SPOT, ANDREW! I'LL HAVE NO MORE NONSENSE! I WANT A HOUSE RIGHT HERE... A BIG STONE HOUSE, BUILT LIKE A CASTLE!

YOU SHALL HAVE IT, DEAREST! I WAS A SILLY FOOL YESTERDAY, BUT IT WAS JUST NERVES! I'M NOT AFRAID OF GHOST OR DEVIL TODAY!

SPEAKING OF GHOSTS ... WHERE IS HE, ANDREW?

UNDER YOUR FEET, ELSA! SEE... THE HEAVY RAIN HAS ALMOST CONCEALED THE FRESH SOD WHERE I FILLED THE SHAFT! IN ANOTHER DAY NOBODY CAN FIND IT!

BUT SUDDENLY...

ELSA... THAT WILD LAUGHTER! DO YOU HEAR IT? IT'S HIS VOICE!

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT WIND IN THE ROCKS AND A COWARD'S TEETH CHATTERING! THIS IS FOR YOUR GHOST OF DAVE BURK, THE FOOL!

AND SO ANDREW CRAVEN, NOW WEALTHY, BROUGHT A CREW OF STONE-MASONS AND BUILDERS TO THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN SLOPE!

YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT... A HOUSE OF MOUNTAIN STONE CUT AND FITTED LIKE A FORTRESS! DON'T SKIMP ON THE STONEMWORK!

YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT, MR. CRAVEN! WE'LL BUILD IT LIKE YOU SAY! I'VE GOT A TOP CREW AND THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF ROCK!

WHEN WE PEEL OFF THIS SOD, WE'LL PROBABLY FIND PLENTY MORE ROCK OF A HANDY SIZE FOR TRIMMING AND FITTING!

NO! I FORBID YOU TO MOVE THIS SOD! BUILD THE HOUSE RIGHT ON TOP OF IT! IF YOU NEED MORE ROCK, GET IT BACK IN THE MOUNTAINS!

I COULDN'T HAVE HIM DIGGING ROCK FROM UNDER THE SOD! HE'D FIND THE SHAFT... AND THEN THE BODY!

YOU ARE A POOR, WEAK JELLYFISH, AREN'T YOU, ANDREW? IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR WEALTH, I COULDN'T STAND YOU!

THAT AWFUL LAUGHTER AGAIN! BUT... BUT YOU DON'T HEAR IT, DO YOU? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE HAUNTED!

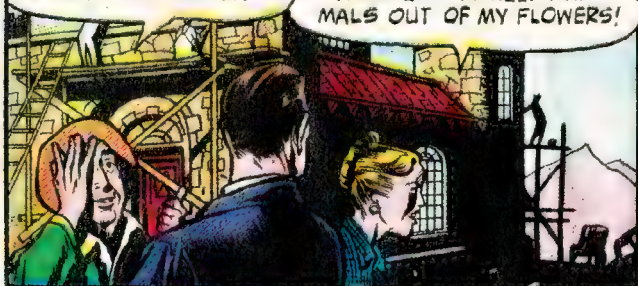
OH, STOP BABBLING NONSENSE AND TAKE ME HOME! I'VE GOT TO SHOP FOR A SUITABLE WEDDING GOWN!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

SO THE WEEKS PASSED AND THE HOUSE TOOK SHAPE ON THE REMOTE MOUNTAINSIDE ... AND ANDREW CRAVEN GREW BOLDER AS THE LAUGHTER WAS HEARD NO MORE!

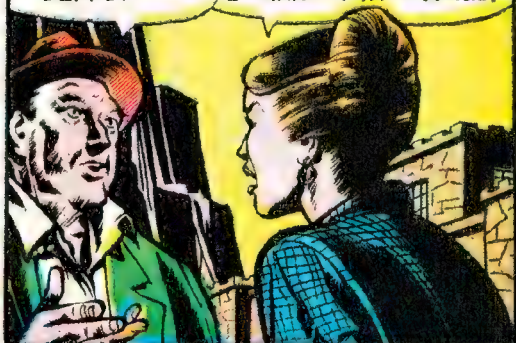
I FIGURE YOU FOLKS CAN MOVE IN THE END OF NEXT WEEK! WE'VE GOT MOST OF THE FINISH WORK DONE!

BUT THERE ISN'T ANY WALL! I TOLD YOU, ANDREW, I WANTED A HIGH STONE WALL ALL AROUND THE HOUSE ... TO KEEP ANIMALS OUT OF MY FLOWERS!



BUT, MA'AM, WE'RE ABOUT OUT OF CUT STONE! IF WE BUILD A WALL, WE'LL HAVE TO BLAST THE CLIFF FOR A FRESH SUPPLY!

THEN BLAST IT! I WANT A WALL AND I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO CHEW IT OUT WITH YOUR TEETH! I--WANT--THAT--WALL!



YOU'RE BUYING IT, MA'AM! WE'VE GOT THE DYNAMITE HERE! I'LL GO HAVE IT PLACED FOR A BLAST RIGHT NOW!

LET'S WATCH IT, ELSA! I GET A BIG KICK OUT OF ANY KIND OF EXPLOSION! I GUESS I'M JUST A KID AT HEART, REMEMBERING FOURTH OF JULY!



THAT'S ENOUGH FOR THIS BLAST! WE DON'T WANT TO BLOW OFF TOO MUCH AT ONE TIME!

DON'T BE SILLY! BLOW UP THE WHOLE CLIFF IF YOU WANT TO! ANDREW WILL PAY FOR IT!



SURE! I LIKE A BIG BANG AND SO DOES ELSA! GO AHEAD AND GIVE US A REAL OLD EARTH-SHAKER!

OKAY, IF YOU INSIST! THE HOUSE IS FAR ENOUGH AWAY SO NOTHING CAN HURT THAT!



LOAD 'ER FOR THE WORKS, BOYS! YOU HEARD THE ORDERS!



AND HALF AN HOUR LATER...

LOADED AND READY FOR FIRE! I'D SUGGEST YOU FOLKS GET A GOOD LONG WAY OFF SO YOU CAN WATCH THE BLAST WITHOUT ANY DANGER!

FROM OUR HOUSE, ANDREW! LET'S GO IN THE HOUSE AND WATCH IT FROM THERE! WE'LL HAVE A GRANDSTAND SEAT!



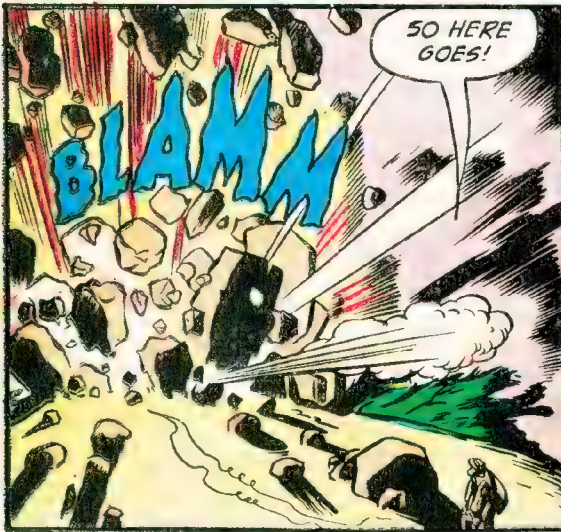
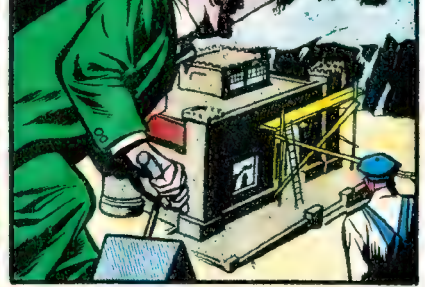
HURRY! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THIS! I LOVE TO SEE THINGS SMASHED AND DESTROYED!

THAT LAUGHTER! IT'S SOUNDING AGAIN! IT HAS A NOTE OF TRIUMPH IN IT!

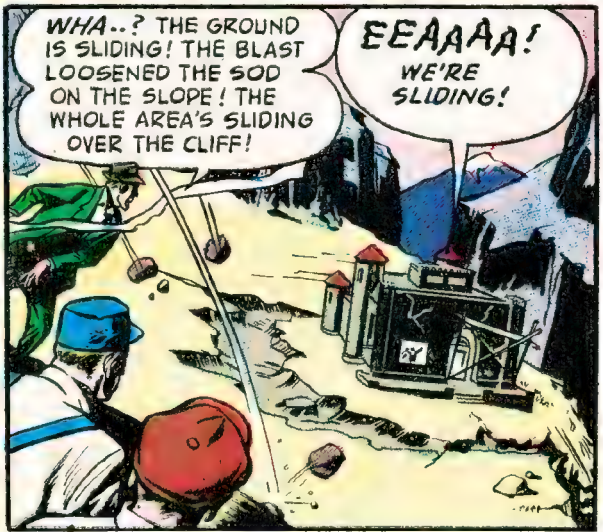
OH, YOU STUPID TREMBLING FOOL! COME ON AND FORGET YOUR SILLY TERRORS! YOU'RE HOLDING UP THE SHOW FOR ME!

YES, ELSA! Y-YES, I'M READY!

THERE'S THE LADY'S SIGNAL! THAT MEANS THEY'RE SAFE INSIDE AND READY FOR THE BLAST!



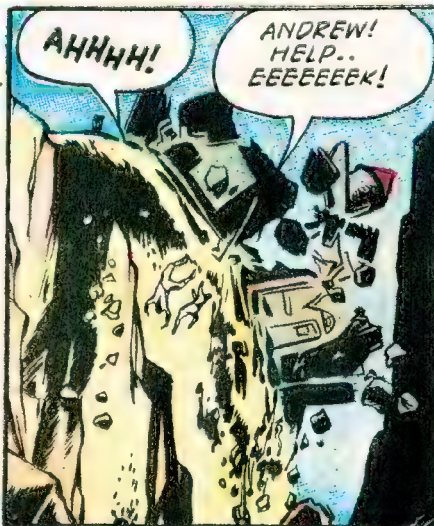
50 HERE GOES!



WHA...? THE GROUND IS SLIDING! THE BLAST LOOSENED THE SOIL ON THE SLOPE! THE WHOLE AREA'S SLIDING OVER THE CLIFF!

EEAAAA! WE'RE SLIDING!

WHO CAN SAY THIS IS SUPERNATURAL...THE RESULT OF A CURSE? THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME A BLAST HAS LOOSENED WHOLE VAST AREAS OF A MOUNTAIN SLOPE!



AHHHH!

ANDREW! HELP.. EEEEEEEK!

THE VALLEY FLOOR, A THOUSAND FEET BELOW... OBLIVION... DEATH... AND A SOUND BEYOND SOUND THAT RINGS IN THE AIR!

THEY'RE DONE FOR! BURIED UNDER TONS OF ROCK! UGH!

THAT LAUGH! DO YOU HEAR IT, BOSS? IT... IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL THE FIENDS OF HELL CELEBRATING A VICTORY!



Ultimate DESTINY

A STUDY IN SUSPENSE AND HORROR

IF YOU VALUE YOUR SANITY, DON'T READ THIS STORY! IT IS TOO HORRIBLE FOR THE EYES OF MAN TO BEHOLD! WITHIN THESE PAGES ARE SOWN THE SEEDS OF MADNESS! PLEASE CLOSE THIS MAGAZINE AND TURN AWAY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, FOR YOU TOO MAY BECOME A VICTIM AS I HAVE!

by Jay Disbrow



I NEVER INTENDED THAT THIS STORY SHOULD BE PUBLISHED. I HAVE RECORDED THIS INCREDIBLE NARRATIVE IN THE HOPE THAT IN SO DOING I COULD RID MY MIND OF THE TERRIBLE HAUNTING MEMORIES THAT HAVE PLAGUED ME NIGHT AND DAY SINCE THIS HORRIBLE INCIDENT HAD ITS BEGINNING!! IF THIS STORY EVER APPEARS IN PRINT, THE READER WILL KNOW THAT I AM DEAD! AND THE FINAL SOLUTION OF THIS AWFUL MYSTERY HAS DIED WITH ME...

RESPECTFULLY YOURS—Dr. Howard Channy

IT BEGAN ONE DAY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHEN I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JOHNATHAN BARKLEY, AN OLD FRIEND WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TIBET.

I—I CAN'T -- BUT YOU SOUND SO TERRIBLY DIS- DISCUSS IT ON THE TELE- TRAUGHT, JOHN- PHONE, HOWARD, BUT BE- THAN, WHAT'S IS TERRIBLE! WRONG? YOU MUST COME OVER AT ONCE!



WHEN I ARRIVED AT HIS HOME, I COULD TELL IMMEDIATELY THAT HE WAS UNDERGOING A DREADFUL EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE----

WHAT IS IT, JOHNATHAN? SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO ME, HOWARD, A TERRIBLE, NAME- YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A LEAF! LESS HORROR IS GRIPPING MY VERY SOUL!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JOHNATHAN! THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING ORGANICALLY WRONG WITH YOU, HOWEVER, I'LL GIVE YOU A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IF-----

I DON'T WANT YOUR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, HOWARD! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU AS A MAN, NOT AS A DOCTOR!



THEN TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG, JOHNATHAN, OTHERWISE, I CAN'T POSSIBLY HELP YOU!

IT-IT BEGAN THE MOMENT I ARRIVED BACK IN NEW YORK! A SLOW, SUBTLE CHANGE BEGAN TO OVERTAKE ME! IT GREW PROGRESSIVELY WORSE, UNTIL NOW, IT THREATENS MY VERY EXISTENCE!



IT'S SOMETHING FROM WITHIN; STRUGGLING FOR POSSESSION OF ME!----IT'S STARTING AGAIN, RUNNING DOWN MY SPINE, KNOTTING MY INTESTINES! MY BRAIN IS BEGINNING TO SWIM! **HELP ME, HOWARD!**



HE SUDDENLY PITCHED HEAD-LONG UPON THE FLOOR, AND BEGAN TO WRITHE AND SCREAM IN APPARENT TORMENT---



GREAT SCOTT, MAN, WHAT IS IT?

I CAN'T STAND IT! I CAN'T STAND IT! AAAGH! GRAAPH!

AN INSTANT LATER, HE LAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS. I CARRIED HIM TO HIS DIVAN AND BEGAN TO ADMINISTER TREATMENT. BUT FRANKLY, I COULD FIND NO CAUSE FOR HIS STRANGE CONVULSIVE SPELL---



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND I PROCEEDED TO INTERROGATE HIM---

OH---WHAT HAPPENED? YOU FAINTED!--- LISTEN TO ME, JOHNATHAN, SOMETHING THAT HAS A BEARING ON YOUR CASE! NOW TELL ME WHAT IT WAS!



YES, YOU ARE RIGHT, HOWARD, SOMETHING DID HAPPEN TO ME OUT THERE! BUT I-I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS! IT-IT'S TOO HORRIBLE TO EVEN CONTEMPLATE! I'VE BEEN TRYING ALL THESE WEEKS TO FORGET IT!



IN THAT CASE, I CAN NOT HELP YOU, JOHNATHAN! IN ANY EVENT, I THINK YOU NEED PSYCHOTHERAPY!



PLEASE, HOWARD, I'M NOT MAD, YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! I-I NEED YOUR HELP!

A SHORT TIME LATER, I RETURNED HOME AND REFLECTED UPON JOHNATHAN BARKLEY'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR.

OBVIOUSLY HIS PROBLEM IS NOT A PHYSICAL ONE, ALTHOUGH, IT COULD HAVE DEFINATE PHYSICAL REPROCUSSIONS IF SOMETHING IS NOT DONE TO ALTER IT!



SEVERAL DAYS PASSED. I BECAME SO ENGROSSSED IN MY BACKLOG OF WORK, THAT I SPENT AN ENTIRE EVENING POORING OVER MY BOOKS, AND AT DAWN, MY PHONE RANG---



INSTINCTIVELY, I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE JOHNATHAN BARKLEY---

---- I MUST SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY, HOWARD! SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED, THE FIRST MANIFESTATIONS OF PHYSICAL RETROGRESSION!

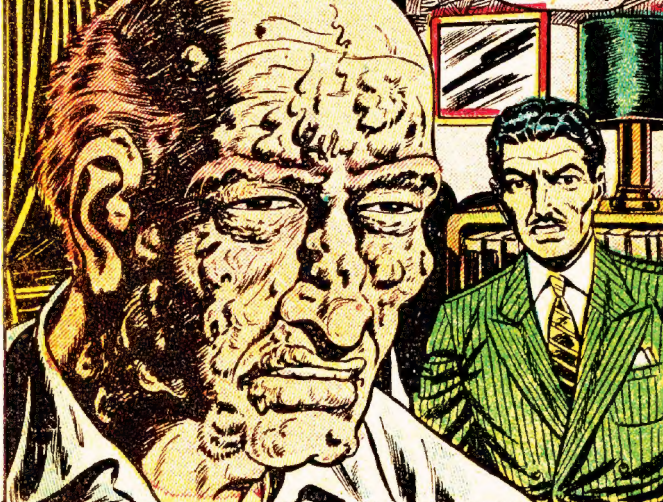


WHEN I ARRIVED AT HIS HOME, I WAS SHOCKED BY HIS TERRIBLE APPEARANCE

JOHNATHAN! THE THING I HAVE FEARED IS LORD, NOW COMING TO PASS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?



I'M GOING TO CONFIDE IN YOU NOW, HOWARD! I MUST GET YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER!! I-I MUST KNOW IF THE CURSE IS REALLY COMING TRUE, OR IF I'M LOSING MY REASON!



"WHEN I WAS IN TIBET, I VISITED ONE OF THE SACRED TEMPLES, AND IT WAS THERE I MET LAHAMA KHAN, THE GRAND HIGH LAMA."

IF YOU ARE INDEED A SEEKER OF TRUTH, YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT US AND STUDY OUR WAYS!



"HE LED ME INTO A SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER, AND A MOMENT LATER, WE WERE STANDING BEFORE AN IMMENSE GROTESQUE IDOL--"

"I SPENT SEVERAL DAYS WITHIN THE ANCIENT EDIFICE, DURING WHICH I LEARNED MANY THINGS CONCERNING THIS STRANGE RACE THAT LIVED IN VOLUNTARY ISOLATION. THE OLD LAMA TOOK A LIKING TO ME FROM THE START, AND HE SLOWLY BEGAN TO TAKE ME INTO HIS CONFIDENCE"

TELL ME, JOHNATHAN BARKLEY, WHAT IS THE ONE THING ABOVE ALL ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO?

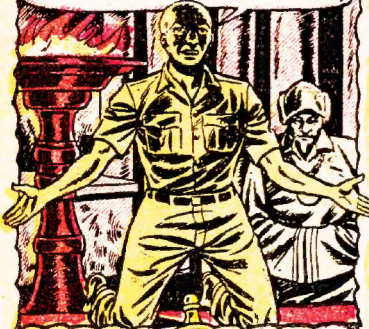


IF YOU KNEEL BEFORE THE IMAGE OF OUR DEITY, KARANAH, AND PRESENT YOUR PETITION, YOU SHALL BE GRANTED A BOON THAT MAN HAS SOUGHT SINCE TIME BEGAN; UNENDING LIFE!



IT BE POSSIBLE SUCH A WONDERFUL THING COULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN TO ME?

"I DID AS HE BADE ME, AND AS I PLEADED MY BEHEST, I FELT A STRANGE SURGE OF EXHILARATION PASSING THROUGH ME--" IF IT BE POSSIBLE, GRANT ME THIS REQUEST; THAT I MAY LIVE--- FOREVER!



"SUDDENLY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO MY PLEA, THE FLOOR BEGAN TO TREMBLE, AND HUGE BILLOWS OF SMOKE ROSE FROM THE BASE OF THE IDOL, AND IN THAT INSTANT OF AWE, I THOUGHT I SAW A HOST OF DISEMBODED SPIRITS RISING FROM THE SMOKE!"



"I FELL TO THE FLOOR, TREMBLING WITH TERROR. BUT AN INSTANT LATER, THE REVERBERATIONS HAD CEASED, AND I FELT A RE-ASSURING HAND UPON MY SHOULDER--"

ALL IS WELL, MY FRIEND! THIS IS MERELY KARANAH'S WAY OF SHOWING YOU THAT YOUR REQUEST HAS BEEN ANSWERED! YOU SHALL LIVE FOR EVER!



"I STAYED ON IN THE OLD MONASTERY SEVERAL MORE DAYS, FINALLY, CAME THE TIME WHEN I MET LUCIAN, HIGH PRIESTESS OF THE TEMPLE, AND FROM THAT MOMENT, MY LIFE WAS CHANGED!"

"I FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH HER! MY ONE DESIRE WAS TO POSSESS HER! I KNOW IT MUST SEEM LUDICROUS FOR A MAN OF MY AGE TO BE THUS SO INFATUATED BY A YOUNG WOMAN, BUT SHE HAD CAST A SPELL UPON ME! I COULD NOT RESIST HER!"



"THE HIGH LAMA SAW US TOGETHER AND BECAME CONSUMED WITH RAGE--"

JACKAL! LECHER! VILE BEAST THAT YOU ARE! YOU WOULD BETRAY MY HOSPITALITY, AND ATTEMPT TO ROB THIS SACRED PLACE OF ITS HOLY PRIESTESS! YOU ARE BANISHED FROM THIS TEMPLE! GO! MAKE HASTE!

SHE IS COMING WITH ME!



"HE REFUSED FLATLY TO LET HER GO, AND I BECAME SO INCENSED WITH RAGE, THAT I SNATCHED A BLADE FROM THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR AND STABBED HIM REPEATEDLY!"



"WITH HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH, HE STAGGERED TO THE WALL AND PROCEEDED TO PULL UPON THE ROPE THAT CONTROLLED A HEAVY DRAPE--"

YOU-YOU WISHED TO LIVE FOREVER, AND INDEED YOU SHALL, BUT NOT IN YOUR PRESENT FORM, BEHOLD WHAT YOUR FUTURE STATE SHALL BE!



"AS THE HEAVY DRAPE WAS FLUNG BACK, I STARED IN HORROR AT THE TERRIBLE FACE PAINTED UPON THE WALL BEHIND IT! AND I KNEW THEN THAT I WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A COUNTER PART OF THAT GHOULISH THING; FOR THE CURSE HAD BEEN PRONOUNCED, AND I COULD NOT ESCAPE IT!"

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!



AS JOHNATHAN BARKLEY CONCLUDED HIS FANTASTIC STORY, I TURNED TO HIM AND SAID--

WHAT WAS IT YOU SAW PAINTED UPON THE WALL?

IT--IT WAS AN IMAGE OF ME! NOT AS I WAS, BUT AS I WILL BE! I WAS SO HORRIFIED THAT I RAN FROM THE TEMPLE AND TOOK THE FIRST MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BACK HOME!



LISTEN TO ME, JOHNATHAN, YOU ARE NO DOUBT SUFFERING FROM SOME KIND OF SKIN DISEASE! NOW I KNOW A SPECIALIST IN DETROIT--

IT'S NO USE, HOWARD! SCIENCE CAN NOT HELP ME!---PERHAPS THIS IS RETRIBUTION FOR MY CRIME! BUT IN ANY EVENT, I'M SURE NOW WHAT MY ULTIMATE DESTINY WILL BE!



A WEEK WENT BY, AND I CONTINUED TO VISIT THE EMACIATED CREATURE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN JOHNATHAN BARKLEY. DAY BY DAY I OBSERVED HIS CONDITION GROWING INCREASINGLY WORSE. FINALLY, I RECEIVED AN URGENT TELEPHONE CALL FROM HIM--

IT'S HAPPENED, HOWARD! THE THING I HAVE FEARED MOST HAS HAPPENED; TOTAL BREAKTHROUGH!



NO! NO! YOU MUST NOT! IF YOU VALUE YOUR SANITY, DON'T COME OVER HERE!

YOU'RE MY FRIEND, JOHNATHAN, AND YOU NEED HELP! I'LL NOT DESERT YOU AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT! I'M COMING NOW!



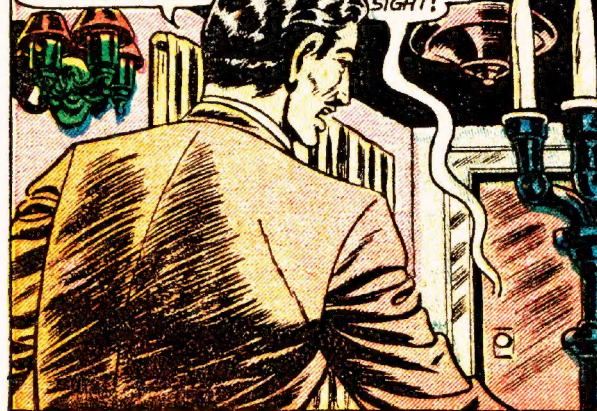
HERE IS WHERE DOCTOR CHANNY'S STRANGE ACCOUNT ENDS; FOR WHEN HE LEFT HIS OFFICE THAT DAY, HE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN, HOWEVER, FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR READERS, WE MUST CARRY THE STORY THROUGH TO ITS CONCLUSION. MUCH OF WHAT WE SAY FROM HERE ON IS PURELY CONJECTURABLE, FOR WE DO NOT HAVE THE FACTS TO SUPPORT THIS HYPOTHESIS, BUT OF ONE THING WE ARE CERTAIN, DOCTOR CHANNY DID HASTEN TO BARKLEY'S HOME.



GREAT SCOTT! I HOPE IT ISN'T WHAT I THINK--

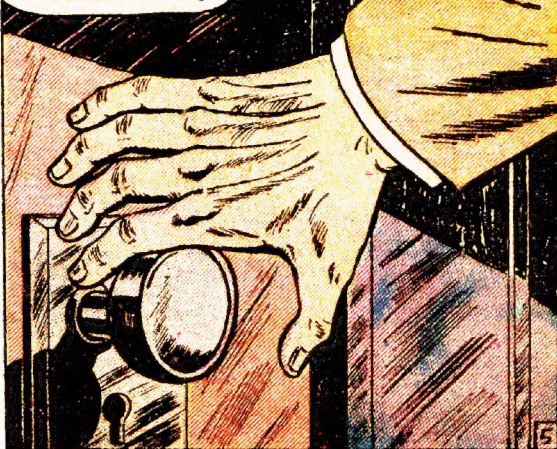
HE THREW OPEN THE FRONT DOOR AND ENDED. THE HOUSE APPEARED TO BE DESERTED--

JOHNATHAN! JOHNATHAN! WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S ME, HOWARD!



I'M HERE, IN THE LIBRARY, BUT I BEG YOU NOT TO COME IN, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAR THE SIGHT!

I AM COMING IN, JOHNATHAN! I'M COMING NOW!



SEVERAL OF JONATHAN BARKLEY'S NEIGHBORS CLAIMED THAT AT EXACTLY 7:15 P.M. THEY HEARD A TERRIBLE SCREAM EMANATING FROM BARKLEY'S LIBRARY, BUT, OF COURSE, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO HAD SCREAMED OR WHAT HAD CAUSED THE FRIGHTFUL OUTCRY.

HELLO,
HOWARD!

JOHNATHAN!
NO! NO!
AAAAGH!

THE END

J.D.